

## NEWS DIGEST

## Home for Hei Mao?

HEI Mao is a lovely black cat who is looking for a new home.

He came into the Worcester and District branch of Cats Protection as a stray.



Hei Mao, above, is about three years old and has a little white patch on his chest

He is a big softy and a lap cat who loves a fuss, purrs and is playful.

This handsome chap is best suited to a home without other cats.

If you could offer him a home, please call the branch on 07527 007436 or e-mail info@worcestercats.org.uk.

## View the bells

VISITORS to Worcester Cathedral can get a rare glimpse inside the Bellingers' Room between 2pm and 4.30pm tomorrow.

The room will be opened as part of the Worcester Festival, although due to space, there is no disabled access. For more information, drop in at the cathedral.

# We'll show you what life is like as a young carer

Group's new film highlights the challenges 180,000 people face on daily basis

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YOUNG carers in Worcester are making their own film to highlight the challenges they face on a daily basis.

With support from the national charity Fixers, the group of young people are hoping to illustrate the typical daily routine of the 180,000 unpaid young carers across the UK.

They are led by Becky Rowe, age 22, and her sister Sarah, 19, who look after their mum who has physical and mental health problems that prevent her from completing many household tasks.

Alongside this they also juggle the demands of their education and looking after their younger brother Matt, 13, all while still trying to fit in a social life.

"There was a lot of pressure put on me and Sarah at a young age," said Becky. "It can be really tough. Caring for our mum put some strain



FIXERS: Sisters Sarah Rowe, left, and Becky Rowe look after their mum and younger brother.

on us, but as we've got used to it, it has become a normal thing.

"But we have grown up a lot quicker than most people. It is a big responsibility."

They are hoping to take their film into schools and colleges to show students and teachers exactly what the role of a young carer is all

about. "When I started caring at 14 some teachers were very good, while other teachers would have been better if they had a bit more knowledge," Becky continued.

"I felt alone when I was at school. I'm hoping this film will be able to help other children and young adults out there feel

less alone and isolated." Once a month the sisters visit the Worcestershire Young Carers Group, where they spend time with other young people who also care for their loved ones.

Neil Phillips, from Worcestershire Youth Support Services, is backing their efforts

to show what young carers go through on a daily basis.

"It is important that we find out what these young carers do because they do an amazing job," he said. "They've developed a skill set and maturity that a lot of other people their age haven't got and I think that it's important that people see that."

The Fixers initiative helps young people to have a voice in their community by providing the resources they need to create their own films, websites and print work.

It has already helped 8,700 people since 2008 and is aiming to help another 20,000 in the next three years after receiving support from the Big Lottery Fund.

Margo Horsley, chief executive of Fixers, praised the efforts of Becky and Sarah and their peers across the country.

"Fixers are always courageous and their ideas can be challenging and life-changing, not just for themselves," she said.

## "MY DAD'S BETTER THAN YOUR DAD" GAME OVER

Best Dad in the World? You will be with the new Fiat 500L Trekking. Arm your kids with the perfect playground verbal ammunition when you scoop them and all their mates up. This 5-seater cruiser has a range of features including beefy 17" diamond-finished alloy wheels with bold arches, tinted windows, City Brake Control, plus Traction+ for when the great British summer goes south. Dad 1. The Rest 0. End of.



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Fiat, the car brand with the lowest average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Europe<sup>†</sup> Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L Trekking range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 60.1 (4.7); Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 74.3 (3.8); Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 67.3 (4.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 149 – 109 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.<sup>†</sup>Source: JATO Dynamics. Based on volume-weighted average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, full year 2012.