

'It is very difficult for all of us but that should not be done'

# Grieving dad 'sad' at graffiti tributes

By Olly Hemans

THE foster father of a man who died after a fall from a Maidenhead car park has hit out at graffiti tributes at the scene.

John Nicholson, whose foster son Marc died at Wexham Park Hospital on Sunday, September 29, after falling from Broadway multi-storey car park when a 'daredevil' leap went wrong, said he was 'very sad' when he learned buildings were being daubed with messages.

And Royal Borough councillor Derek Wilson, (Con, Oldfield), cabinet member for public protection, said the council would be organising the removal of the graffiti.

Mr Nicholson said: "I have seen the many flowers that were left there but I am very sad to see that there is graffiti.

"It is very difficult for all of us, in his family and for his friends but that should

not be done. However distressed you feel and whatever messages you want to write you can't go round defacing public buildings.

"I don't know what we can do about it. I guess the council will have to remove it."

Cllr Wilson said graffiti 'can't be tolerated'.

He said: "There have been flowers laid down near to where he fell and that is a form of remembrance but I don't think it's necessary to graffiti."

"I sympathise with all those who have been closely affected by this young man's death but there has got to be an understanding that it is not acceptable to write on buildings because it is a main thoroughfare there, and lots of people from outside the town go by and it does not give a good image of Maidenhead."

"I am trying to get it removed as soon as possible."

Marc Nicholson's friend,



WALL OF TRIBUTE: Graffiti left near where Marc Nicholson, also known as Fuzz, fell to his death. Ref:78981/1

Bradley Lucas, said it was a shame some people felt they had to criticise the graffiti tributes.

But he said he could understand why the council and Mr Nicholson were unhappy with the situation.

He said: "I think it's good and I like going down there and seeing what everyone has done."

"It shows a lot of people respected him."

"I would like to see it there forever."

"But fair enough, I can see why people think it's a mess and it is there for now and when the time comes it will be painted over."

The funeral of Marc Nicholson, or Marc Byrne, as he was born, will be held at Waltham St Lawrence parish church, The Street, Waltham St Lawrence, at 3.30pm on Tuesday. All are welcome to attend.

# Fare dodgers risk death

FARE-dodging commuters are risking their lives by crossing a fast inter-city railway line at Maidenhead Station, British Transport Police warned this week.

District Sergeant Pete Berton said passengers who had not bought tickets, regularly crossed the track between platform two and platform one to leave the station through an unmanned exit to Shoppers Road.

He said: "People just walk straight on to the tracks. Trains travelling at 115mph use that line."

On Wednesday of fivers from Paddington

began a three-day patrol of the town's railway line and its surrounding stations because of reports of trespassing on the line, vandalism and bike thefts.

Other problem areas include the railway tracks behind Boyn Valley Road where police received reports of children trespassing on the line and throwing stones.

Sgt Berton said: "Kids get up to mischief there, they place stuff on the lines, which is a serious offence."

"It is a constant problem for us, Boyn Valley Road."

# Wave a little happiness

By Girish Gupta

IT MAY not give you the power to turn your enemies into frogs, but according to a spiritualist shop in Maidenhead a wand may make you a little happier.

To prove it, Between 2 Worlds, in Maidenhead High Street, will be holding wand-crafting workshops leading up to Halloween.

Adults and children are invited to the workshops to learn how wands can 'bring magic and ritual into their lives' and to prove it is not just Harry Potter and his friends who can reap the rewards of this ancient craft.

Twinkle, the spiritualist leading the workshops, said preparation was essential for the workshops.

"Go for a walk in the woods," she said.

"Look for a piece of wood that speaks to you, and anything else that will help you achieve what you want. Think about what you want it to do for you."

Twinkle recommended acorns for protection against illness and copper for healing, while feathers were associated with the spirit world.

Native Americans, she said, wore headdresses adorned with feathers to catch spirits in the air.

They also allowed the wind to carry the Indians' own wishes and dreams.

The hour-long classes - to be held at the shop on



WANDERING STARS: Karina (left), owner of Between 2 Worlds, and Twinkle, are to hold wand-crafting workshops. Ref:79024/1

Friday, October 25 and Saturday, October 26 - will begin with the actual crafting of the wands followed by 15-20 minutes of meditation in which participants visualise what they would like the wand to achieve for them.

"Better preparation

leads to a better end product," Twinkle said.

Apprehensive parents who are unsure about allowing their children to dabble in crafting are assured the only things that will be taught are its 'healing properties and magical goodness'.

# Man escapes shed blaze

A MAN had a lucky escape when his shed caught fire while he was still inside it.

Firefighters were called to Victor Close, Maidenhead, at 8pm on Tuesday after they said burning candles set the shed on fire.

Sub Officer Steff Douglas, said: "When we turned up a woman told us to be careful because there was a gas cylinder."

"What she did not say was that a man was still in there. He came out and we took him inside and gave him some oxygen as he had inhaled a lot of smoke and banged his head, he seemed very confused."

"It looked like he had built the shed himself. The roof had all gone and some of the tools were damaged."

Graham Groves, ambulance spokesman, said: "The man was treated on the scene and did not have to go to hospital."



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