

NEWS FILE
friday

Lunch could be very good value

A SPECIALIST from the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* will give a talk and jewellery valuations at a lunch on April 27. Susan Rumfitt will be at the Ascot Hotel, Harrogate, at noon, in aid of the local branch of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Tickets at £15 from 01423 508357.

Sight loss bus rolls into town

ACTION for Blind People's pioneering mobile sight loss information service will be touring Ilkley, Keighley and Skipton from April 12 to 14. The information service, run by the national charity, offers support for anyone concerned about visual impairment.

Park poop blitz

DOG owners and walkers took cleaning to a whole new level in a Leeds park. The group collected dog mess around Calverley's Victoria Park as part of their Great Poo Pick Up.

Film maker finds return north brings upturn in fortunes



Home is where the movie art is

BY STEVE PARSLEY

HEADING for London to make your fortune has been seen as the way forward since Dick Whittington was a lad.

But, for one Leeds lass, coming home has proved the catalyst for success – crowned by a category win at a swish awards ceremony back in the capital last week.

Vicki Psarias – daughter of Rodley restaurateurs and Olive Tree owners George and Vasoulla – has always been fascinated by making films, even pestering her dad to borrow VHS cameras so she could make her own documentary when she was 11.

A place at Goldsmiths University in London to study for an MA and then a job at Red Bus production company were both massive breaks and Vicki's talent was soon being noticed, not least by judges for the Channel 4 4Talent Awards who named her best film maker in 2007 for her short film, *Broken*.

The same piece – telling the story of what it means to be an immigrant in London through the eyes of a teenage Greek Cypriot girl – went on to win four more awards; there have also been accolades recognising Vicki's rapid rise through the ranks in a notoriously competitive market.

Perhaps the most significant recognition came last week when Vicki was named the winner in the Entertainment, Media and the Arts category in the *The Square Mile Magazine Worldspreads 30 Under 30 London Talent Awards*, inaugurated last year to celebrate the best young talent the UK has to offer. But, by then, Vicki had left the capital to be nearer her family in Leeds – and she's delighted things have really begun to hap-

pen for her since then. Coming somewhere like Leeds isn't really down-sizing any more," she said.

"I don't know if that's because other institutions are looking to relocate outside the capital as well – but there's certainly been an upturn for me.

"Winning the Square Mile Award was really exciting but also working on developing one of my short films with the BBC Comedy team."

“ We've a long way to go but it's exciting ... it all started to happen since I came home to Yorkshire

- Vicki Psarias



Rifts – the story of warring kebab shop owners in Manchester – already has two awards to its name but the BBC's Phil Hughes and Lee Brazier have joined Vicki to see if it has the potential to become a programme.

"We have a long way to go and who knows if we'll ever get as far as commissioning but I am now working with the BBC on one of my ideas, which is so exciting," said Vicki. "It's all just started to happen since I came home to Yorkshire."

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Last chance to be on half marathon's starting line

TIME is running out for teams to compete against each other at this year's Leeds Half-Marathon.

Places are still available for any teams to sign up for the event's Corporate Challenge.

Teams of six employees will each run a section of the 13.1-mile half-marathon course in a relay format through the streets of Leeds on Sunday, May 8.

The final places are also now being claimed for the main GDF SUEZ Leeds Half-Marathon which will see a record entry of 5,000 runners.

The closing date for entries for both elements is Friday, April 8.

Leeds City Council's deputy executive member for leisure, Councillor Lisa Mulherin, said: "The half-marathon is a fantastic event and it would be great to see as many runners of all ages taking part.

"The event also raises much-needed funding for charity so we look forward to seeing more people than ever on the new start line on The Headrow this year."

The race is open to people aged over 17 and everyone who successfully completes the course will receive a race medal and T-shirt at the finish line.

All the runners will be asked to raise sponsorship money for official event charity Yorkshire Cancer Research

For more information or to receive an application form go to www.leeds.gov.uk/runleeds or contact 0113 395 0001.

Fare warning as shuttle bus rules change

PEOPLE using Leeds city centre's shuttle bus services have been reminded they will have to pay for their journeys from today.

The hugely-popular 'hop on, hop off' services have been free to use since they first hit the streets in 2006.

Now, though, a fare of 50p per trip has been introduced following council funding cuts.

The rebranded LeedsCityBus services will follow the same route as their Leeds FreeCityBus predecessors.

West Yorkshire passenger transport authority Metro is running the new set-up for a trial period of five months.

Plaques the way to boost tourism

PONTEFRACT Civic Society plans to buy 30 new blue plaques to mark more of the town's historic sites in a bid to boost tourism.

There are currently 26 blue plaques in Pontefract town centre.

Now the society intends to more than double the figure to help create a blue plaque tour.

Society secretary Paul Cartwright, said: "We've created a long list of nominations from historical records of the town and we will also look in villages such as Badsworth, Ackworth and Darrington."

KASA

SUPPLYING A WIDE RANGE OF BEERS WINES AND SPIRITS, AT THE VERY BEST PRICES

<p>KASA Beeston</p> <p>336 Dewsbury Road, LS11 7DJ</p> <p>Mon - Sun 5am to 11pm</p>	<p>KASA Middleton</p> <p>99 Middleton Park Road, LS10 4LS</p> <p>Mon - Sat 2pm - 11pm</p> <p>Sun 2pm - 9pm</p>
<p>KASA Belle Isle</p> <p>Former Grey Goose Pub Belle Isle Road LS10 3QJ</p> <p>Mon 7am - 11pm Sunday 12pm - 2pm</p>	<p>KASA Crossgates</p> <p>18 Austhorpe Road LS15 8DX</p> <p>Mon - Sat 7am - 11pm</p> <p>Sun 9am - 9pm</p>