

## School opens doors to public

ONE OF Birmingham's leading independent preparatory schools is throwing open its doors for a special event.

Norfolk House School, in Norfolk Road, Edgbaston is holding an open day on Saturday May 8.

The event, which runs from 10am to 4pm, will also provide visitors with the opportunity to meet staff, talk to those that run the school and nursery and have a look around the buildings in an informal atmosphere.

The school, which caters for children between the ages of three and 11, has a history of traditional teaching methods stretching back some 70 years.

## Flats plan for village homes

TWO substantial homes on a leafy residential street in Moseley could be turned into flats.

Birmingham city council has received a planning application from Ravinder Singh Phull, relating to numbers 113 and 115 Anderton Park Road. If the

## Maypole mayhem at Marston Green

DISPLAYS of maypole dancing will be performed by pupils of Marston Green Infants School on the lawn of St Leonard's at the church's May Market on Saturday, May 8.

The traditional dancing around a maypole

is one of the main features of the annual fund-raising event which is being staged in the Parish Hall and grounds from 10am.

Throughout the morning there will be other entertainment.

## Flowery Tony Christie asks: Is this the way to Amaryllis?



● FLOWER POWER: Pam Neaves, Mavis Cunningham and Pat Brighton.

IS THIS the way to Amarillo? No, but 60s singing sensation Tony Christie may find a few blooming amaryllis when he visits the West Midlands to support a local charity's flower festival

event at Moor Hall Hotel, Sutton Coldfield, in aid of The Cancer Support Centre.

Taking place on the weekend of May 14, 15 and 16, the festival will include up to 60

To Amarillo.

The star is patron of the charity and will be the special guest at the charity's fundraising lunch taking place at the

# Zero carbon homes plan gets welcome

WORK to construct Birmingham's first affordable zero carbon homes is set to start later this month, in the shadow of the former Rover plant at Longbridge.

The energy-saving homes will feature solar panels, heat recycling systems to reuse warmth from kitchens and bathrooms, and rainwater harvesting systems. They will be fitted with high-performance gas boilers which will self-regulate according to the weather.

The new homes will be part of the £17.1 million redevelopment of the former Nimmings Farm estate in Northfield. In all, 48 affordable homes will be built on the site, by West Mercia Housing Group working with construction firm Lovell.

While the new eco-homes will

ahead of the original target. Nick Edge, development project manager at West Mercia, said: "We are delighted to have reached this key stage and are keen to now start on site. This has always been an ambitious project, and it is only due to the patience of residents and our partnership with the council and the Homes and Communities Agency, that it has been possible.

"Since we started on phase one, eco standards have changed significantly and it is fantastic that we've been able to incorporate zero carbon houses as part of this final phase and build the best affordable eco-homes in the city five years ahead of the Government target."

The development will be created on the 1.1 hectare site in Northfield, formerly owned by