



A night out with Shaky

MUSIC legend Shakin' Stevens will be bringing his 30th Anniversary tour to St George's Hall, Bradford for one night only on Friday 2 December.

The tour commemorates the anniversary of Stevens' first UK hit Hot Dog.

He has collaborated with and worked alongside some of the most astute rock and country blues-aware musicians in the world and remains the UK's 16th Highest Selling Artist in the history of the charts.

This unprecedented success was mirrored across Europe and in many territories world-wide, earning him a multitude of Gold, Platinum and Double Platinum Discs, together with global honours and prestigious industry awards world-wide.

Indie rock musicians take Centre Stage

WEST Yorkshire's indie rock glitterati turned out to support the return of a fundraising musical talent competition.

Mike Heaton and Mickey Dale from Embrace and Matt Bowman and Ryan Wilson from The Pigeon Detectives were among the stars who attended the Centre Stage 2012 launch

event at the O2 Academy Leeds.

Taking place for the third time, the contest is open to acts aged under 21 with at least one member at school or college in West Yorkshire.

The winning entrant will get a place on the bill at next summer's Leeds Festival.

Funds raised by the competition

go to Martin House Children's Hospice, near Wetherby.

Heats take place at Leeds's Wardrobe club from April 16 to 19 next year.

For contest application details, ring Sarah Smith at Martin House on 01937 844569 or enter 'centre stage competition' into the search engine of Facebook.

Airport's fire lifeline placed on cuts hit-list

Axe for leading station and jobs

BY PETER LAZENBY

A FIRE station which is first to respond to incidents at Leeds Bradford International Airport is facing closure because of Government cuts.

Rawdon fire station and a part-time station at Otley will close with the loss of 23 jobs under proposals to West Yorkshire Fire Authority. A new station is planned at Menston to replace the two.

Rawdon turns out automatically in the event of any incident at the airport to back up the airport's own firefighters.

A fire service source at Rawdon said: "We are the first there. We attend whenever there is an alarm there for whatever reason - say if an under-carriage wheel does not come down."

Rawdon is a full-time fire sta-



tion staffed 24 hours a day.

Otley has retained firefighters who are on call at home or from other jobs.

A spokesman for West Yorkshire Fire Service said the proposals will go to the authority on December 16 after public consultations end on December 9. He said construction of a new station in Menston would improve call-out times to Burley-in-Wharfedale and Otley, and maintain call-out times to Rawdon.

He said Rawdon and Otley were both classed as "very low risk areas."

Ten of West Yorkshire's 48 fire stations face closure due to Government cuts. They will be replaced by

five new ones, but the fire authority has accepted there will be longer journey times to some incidents.

Other closures include Gipton and Stanks in east Leeds, Dewsbury and Batley, and Hemsworth and South Emsall.

The number of West Yorkshire firefighters is expected to be cut from 1,450 to 1,150 by 2015, and the service will lose a number of appliances.

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) says the closures will mean increased risk to lives and homes, businesses and workplaces.

Yorkshire FBU Regional Secretary Pete Smith said: "There will be a greater risk to life, to homes, businesses and workplaces. We'll have fewer stations, fewer frontline crews and fewer appliances spread more thinly.

"These cuts are the worst we have ever seen and come on the back of already serious cuts to the service in recent years. Make no mistake they are a threat to the safety of the public and firefighters."

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Fire stations
in numbers

48

Fire stations in West
Yorkshire

10

Number to close

5

New stations to
open

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