

OW is it that big stores are not content with making huge profits and when I say huge, that's what

Yet they want you, the paying customer to serve yourself from the shelves and then queue up to pay for the stuff.
But, wait for it, their greed doesn't stop there, now they want you to do another job – the one of the person on the till into the bargain.
Bargain? No, it's the stores that are getting the bargain, for we have now become not only customers but members of staff as well.
It seems they will do anything but spend those huge profits on giving folk work. It's a bit illogical really, as employing more people means more customers, as I'm sure those extra staff would spend.

IT'S been quite a week. I went to London on Tuesday. I can't believe the train fares. You could have an all-inclusive holiday in Spain with the money that an ordinary open two-day return costs — two hundred and odd

pounds.

I know if you can book a long time in advance it's a great deal cheaper, but that's not always possible. Fortunately I do have a rail card.

The capital was hot, airless and heaving. The cheap pound seems to be having the effect of pulling people in, that and, of course, the huge interest in our historic and beautiful buildings.

There is no doubt that our royal family

## the line at DIY checkouts have to draw

and our history proves very fascinating. The guards outside St James's Palace were definitely drawing in the crowds, as was, funnily enough, Downing Street. Even though it's closed and gated off to the public, it doesn't stop the folk standing about, waiting and taking photographs, in the hope that someone famous will appear.

But are there any famous folk in Downing Street at the moment?

THE illusion of television is punctured just a little when you go behind the scenes. Katy and I visited the stage manager on Five's The Wright Stuff on Wednesday morning and then of course we stayed on to watch the show. It really was good entertainment, very slick, very clever and well worth a visit. And what's more, they give you a cuppa and make you very welcome.

I WAS invited to cut the ribbon to open the new garden sun shelter in the grounds of All Gates nursing home at Feniscowles, Blackburn.

It really is a lovely place and the staff are so cheerful, which can't always be easy. They were also running stalls, raising money for the British Legion. It's funny that busy people always seem to have time to do things for others.

On Sunday I went to a garden party, with a difference, for the Heart Foundation, for there was a brass band. Is there anything more inspiring or back tingling than that sort of music? It gets me every time.



# **GETTING A TASTE** OF LIFE BEHIND THE WHEEL



Micra rally car at a 'Go Motorsport' event at the Roman Road motorcycle training circuit. The day was to give young people a feel for driving

By SAM CHADDERTON
Crime Reporter

SIX people are being held by police after an 18-year-old man was glassed in the face. Officers were called by residents to a disturbance involving several people in Elizabeth Street, Accrington, at 5.10am yesterday. They found a pool of blood with a smashed glass bottle in it.

A short time later, a car was stopped in Burnley Road, Accring-



The weapon has made a mess of the victim's arm

ton, and the five occupants were arrested on suspicion of assault. A sixth suspect was then arrested and the local teenager was found at a separate address, suffering from 'slash wounds' to his nose and arms, thought to have been caused by a broken bottle.

He is receiving treatment at Royal Blackburn Hospital for his wounds. His injuries are described

as 'significant', but are not thought to be life-threatening.

Detective Sergeant Paul Langley, said: "When the disturbance was reported, a member of the public described a vehicle leaving.

"That car was stopped a short time later. We found the victim at a nearby address and although we don't know what caused his injuries, they have certainly caused a mess of his arm.

"It is possible a bottle was used in the assault.

"We are still investigating the catalyst for this disturbance and one of the possibilities is that it was a drunken fallout.

"We believe there were a number of people out on the street at the time and are appealing for any witnesses to come forward."

Last night, detectives were interviewing three men aged 37, 26 and 18, and three women aged 35, 21 and 17, on suspicion of assault.

### was great Iftar at Towneley

regularly get invited to a series of Iftar (fast breaking) dinners.
This weekend was no exception with three events taking place. On the Sunday I raced from one Iftar event to another not wanting to let any host down.
But the pick had to be the Love and Etiquette Foundation's

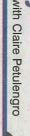
Ramadhan Diary

Community Iftar at
Towneley Hall, Burnley.
It really did seem to be
the most tranquil and
peaceful place to be as
the sunset approached.
The evening was a mix
of charity raffles (which
I never ever win) and a
performance by a North
African musical group.
It was also pleasing to
see some non-Muslims at
the Iftar. In the coming
weeks there are sure to
be many more such
events and it is worth
going. You may, like me,
learn something new.

## bus fees Forum on

PARENTS can have their say about proposed charges for buses to church schools at a consultation meeting.
Lancashire County Council wants views about plans to seek £2 a day from parents for transport to faith schools from next year.
Officials will be available between 4 and 6pm at. Accrington Library on August 31; Nelson Library on September 2; Burnley Library on September 2; Burnley Library on September 6.

## yourstars



(March 21st-April 20th) Someone you didn't think you could trust in business is about to offer you a golden handshake by Friday, Use today to weigh up what you and not just what others really want, Aries.

Call my Aries Line to hear more 0906 585 4912

upril 21st-May 21st) The full moon promises coltement. Get ready for the unexpected, urus. A new filtration is getting rather risqué, rid caution is advised, unless you're sure to ant to turn your world upside down.

Call my Taurus Line to hear more 0906 585 4913

(July 24th-August 23rd) Travel is forecast as new faces and places give you a lift. The number two is vital to success, Just make sure you're not leading on a face you only ever really wanted friendship with.

Call my Leo Line to hear more 0906 585 4916

(August 24th-September 23rd) A lie had been told and you may have to take some of the blame, a time best to say less than more. Make sure that you honour all commitments you booked with your family.

# (June 22nd-July 23rd) Don't let others dampen your enthusiasm for a new venture. This is your time enjoy it. Travel plans are also well starred as you finally get the chance to meet someone you've only known by name. Call my Cancer Line to hear more 0906 585 4915

(October 24th-November 22nd) You feel a little restless. Change your routine or even perhas your image. You've been living and acting to fit in with others for far too long now. Be yourself. That's why you're special.

# live psychic 0906 570 5960

60ppm. Psychic calls cost £1.50 per minute - BT landlines (other networks may vary) Lines are open from 7am-2am daily, Callers must be 18 or over for entertainment purposes only. Customer services 0800 954 2341. PhonePayPlus Regulated. SP, Pronto Media, PO BOX 199, Selby, YO8 1BP