### **Praise** for gift of life heroes

A THANKSGIVING service for the families who carry donor cards and the medical staff who save lives will be held in Birmingham Cathedral tonight was organised by Mrs Elaine Whitfield, from Redditch, whose father, Arthur, was given a heart transplant three years ago.

She wanted all the families who have benefited from a transplant operation to be able to say a proper thank you to the donors and surgeons.

#### **Awareness**

She campaigns constantly to raise awareness of the need to carry a donor card and said there were more than 5,500 people in Britain who are waiting for a transplant.

waiting for a transplant.
Tonight's service will herald next week's National Transplant Week.
The service, at 7.30pm will be attended by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Coun Paul Tilsley, the Mayor of Worcester, Coun David Inight, and the Mayor of Redditch, Coun Doug Baddeley.

### Two face crash charges

TWO men have appeared in court after a car crash in which two elderly women were injured.

John David Callaghan, (21), of Laburnum Avenue, Kingshurat, and Garry Dudley, (21), of of ixed address, were remanded in by Birmligham magistrates. mingham trates.

Both were charged with aggravated ve-hicle taking, driving while disqualified and having no insur-ance. Callaghan was accused of falling to stop after an acci-dent.

### **VERDICT** ON OLD MUMS

ELDERLY women should not be allowed to give birth, according to readers who voted in an Evening Mail phone poll.

Evening Mail phone poll.

We asked for your views following the news that a 62-year-old Italian woman had given birth after fertility treatment. Eighty-one per cent said births at a late stage in life should not be permitted, with only 19 per cent in favour.

For details of how to promote your company to the Evening Mail's 301,000 ABC1 readers, in the most up-to-date business section in the Midlands, call 021-234-5532



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BRIT STEEL	157 xd				
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SAINSBURY	399 xd	-1	JAPAN (Yen)	151.50	
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Bellway	220	+4	Lookers	239	
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Tarmac	164	+1	Bemrose	416	+1
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Saville Gordon 63
Slough Estates 243 -1
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# CAPITAL GRA SHOWS FAI

**NEWLY-floated** invest ment capital group 3i pumped £45 million pumped into 94 M into 94 Midland compa-nies in the 12 months to March 31, figures

3i's total investment in the 3l's total investment in the region now amounts to nearly £400 million spread across a total of 610 medium-sized companies.

The investments helped to increase the company's UK and overseas portfolio by £383 million to nearly £3 billion covering 3,400 businesses.

Birmingham office director Chris Rowlands said: "These very impressive results reflect 3l's commitment to the Mid-

By JOHN CRANAGE

lands' economy. With invest-ments of £45 million in the re-gion over the last year, 3i was able to make a significant con-tribution to the region's industry and commerce.

and commerce.

"These new figures also underline the central role that 3i plays in funding independent companies as the demand for capital investment continues to grow."

#### **Activity**

The Birmingham office increased its investment level by 10 per cent last year, as business activity picked up in the wake of the recession.

Deals backed by 3i included the £52 million management buy-out of LDV (formerly Ley-land DAF Vans) and the buy-out of Citrus Colloids from Hereford cider giant Bulmers.

"We have seen some major high profile investments this year which endorsed, once again, Birmingham's skills and experience as a financial centre for large transactions," said Mr Rowlands.

"What is particularly pleas-ing, however, is the increase in the mix of investments we have made over the year, with a good deal of growth capital as well as buy-out and buy-in activity.

"Judging by the busy activity of the first quarter of this year, the coming months look set to be very busy."

### Carpets

### maker walking

on air

A MIDLAND carpet company has revealed a prefits recev-ery repairing the hole the recession were in its balance

abect.

Eiderminster-based Victoria Carpet carried annual profits back to levels achieved in 1991-92 — making £1.8 millen compared to depressed £58,000 last time.

The result was achieved on also which were only £3.2 millen higher at £36.7 million.

#### **Across board**

Chairman John Bettinson and the imprevement went across the beard with the receivery split equally between the company's operations in Britain and Australia. He added that the success had been achieved without the need for large-scale redundancies.

Mr Bettinson gave ne credit for the improvement to the everall economic recovery.

### Costs push car auction roup in red

BUSINESS REPORTER

CENTRAL Motor Auctions drove into the red as profits were hit by one-off costs, figures revealed today.

The company said that costs totalling £505,000 pushed it into a deficit in the six months to April 30.

The group — which claims to be the biggest motor auction company in Europe — said it was bidding for new areas of busi-

bidding for new areas of business.
It is seeking contracts with large companies wishing to dispose of their unwanted vehicles rather than waiting for them to arrive at its traditional auctions. Chairman Richard Wilson Said: The group is currently working with a major UK manufacturer to remarket and dispose of its vehicles and CMA is seeking to develop other similar relationships on a contractual basis. He added: "We are confident that the refocusing of the business will lead to renewed growth."

**Computer software** 

Computer Software

Exceptional reorganisation costs, including compensation for a former director, and a write-down of computer software costs, saw the Leeds-based group make a loss of £420,000 in the latest half-year.

This compared with a profit of £347,000 for the corresponding period a year earlier.

Losses per share of 3.1p compared with earnings last time of 1.81p. The interim dividend will be halved to 0.5p.

### Istel takes off for £1.7m deal

COMPUTER firm AT&T istel is celebrating winning a £1.7 million contract with aerospace company Avro International.

Istel, of Redditch, won the deal to manage the installation of a computerised manufacturing management system at Avro's factory near Manchester.

## Sweet pill for

drugs group
HEALTHCARE group SmithKline Beecham increased profits
in the first half of the year despite the loss of US paient protection for ulcer drug Tagamet.

tection for ulcer drug Tagamet.
Profits rose to £644 million
from £601 million in the first six
months of 1993 when the group
benefited from a £37 million
gain on the sale of its personal
care hustness.

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