

BY APRIL RYAN

Luke, 12, in control for young driver contest

A YOUNG man from Willaston has been recognised as one of the best young drivers in the country after entering a national driving competition – five years before he can get his driving licence.

Luke Dundas, aged 12, was hand-picked as one of the 40 finalists for the UK's Young Driver Challenge 2019.

The competition took place on September 7 and Luke was one of 23 finalists in his age range.

Competing in an environment where safety wins the race, not speed, Luke impressed the judges with his working knowledge of reversing, parking, manoeuvring a slalom, handling junctions and independent driving.

Thanks to his precision, positive attitude and overall judgment, Luke stood out from the crowd and won a complimentary 60-minute Young Driver gift voucher, a medal and a signed copy of Quentin Willson's latest book, Learn to Drive Without Tears and Tantrums.

Luke said: "It's been a brilliant experience.

"I was really pleased to have made the final from hundreds of entries and I am really proud of how I performed on the day.

"The instructors put us to the test with lots of driving challenges, but it

was good fun and a great opportunity to improve my driving skills in a Vauxhall Corsa.

"It's definitely going to help make me a safer driver when I do go on to pass my test – hopefully first time like both of my brothers!"

During the course of the competition, entrants such as Luke were kept under a watchful eye by qualified driving instructors.

Fifth Gear presenters Vicki Butler-Henderson and Quentin Willson kept a quiet watch over the competitors before handing out the prizes.

Mrs Butler-Henderson said: "It was fantastic to see how well the drivers handled the car, especially when some of them are just 10-years-old.

"It was clear to see how seriously they took the responsibility of being behind the wheel and it was an honour to award all of them with their prizes, as they were all thor-

oughly deserved.

"Hopefully all these youngsters having the opportunity to learn at an early age will create a safer next generation of young drivers for our roads - which is a huge benefit to us all."

Sue Waterfield, head of marketing for Young Driver, said: "Young Driver's aim has always been to help our young people be safer drivers, by giving them that extra time to get to grips with how to handle a car long before they have the pressure of being anywhere near a main road.

"Of course, it's also great fun to safely have the chance do something you wouldn't usually be able to – and many parents tell us it's a huge confidence boost for their children!"

● To find out more about the Young Driver Scheme, visit the Young Driver website at: www.young-driver.com



● Luke pictured alongside Fifth Gear presenters Quentin Willson and Vicki Butler-Henderson

October

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Military hardware on show



● Military vehicles on display at the Wheels Of War event, held at Crewe Heritage Centre
Jonathan White

BY JONATHAN WHITE

THE annual Wheels of War: Past and Present military vehicle show took place at Crewe Heritage Centre on Vernon Way.

The show featured military vehicle displays including a replica V-1 flying bomb, trade stalls, model displays, and a tombola.

There was musical entertainment on Saturday daytime from vintage vocalist Ruth Washington and on Sunday daytime from the South Cheshire George Formby Ukulele Society.

On the Saturday night a 1940s themed big band dance party took place in the centre's Exhibition Hall with live music from the 22-piece Wychcraft Big Band.

Numerous people wore 1940s clothing over the weekend with this year being the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Crewe Heritage Centre was open to visitors including its three signal boxes, the Advanced Passenger Train, model railway displays and layouts, static locomotive displays and miniature railway rides creweheritagecentre.org/.

The event was organised by Crewe and District Military Vehicle Club in support of Help for Heroes www.helpforheroes.org.uk/.

● Crewe and District Military Vehicle Club meets on the last Tuesday evening of each month at Hops Belgium Bar in Crewe. New members are always welcome. For further information visit www.cdmvc.co.uk/