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CREEPY: The spider found in Scunthorpe and now in the expert hands of Cleethorpes Jungle Zoo keeper Bernard Bale.

Web of intrigue as poisonous spider turns up in garage

■ Alien arthropod from Africa

WEIRD and wonderful creepy-crawlies from across the world continue to invade North Lincolnshire.

by **Nick Cole**
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The latest alien arthropod found its way from Africa to the Scunthorpe depot of Bush Tyres, in Brigg Road.
It came in the shape of a female spider from a species known as *nephilengys cruentata* – commonly known as orb-web spiders – normally found in the tropics and sub-tropics.

Barnetby-based fitter Charlie Bailey was removing one of the wheels from a Land Rover when he got the surprise of his life, seeing the spider.
Mr Bailey (46), who started work for Bush Tyres earlier this year, said: "I was bending down to remove the wheel when it ran out from under the arch.
"My workmates thought I acted cool, to say the least.
"I picked it up and was playing with the poor thing briefly until the customer who owned the Land Rover told me to be careful.

FACT FILE
AFRICAN orb-web spiders are capable of creating webs which can trap small birds.
But they are far happier trapping insects in what are among the strongest webs produced.
The male is many times smaller than the female and will feed off her leftovers.
At up to six inches across, the female of the species can be a terrifying sight, although fundamentally harmless.

"He explained he had driven the vehicle in Africa the week before."
Then work colleague Mark Doyley (also 46) secured the stowaway spider in a box before handing it over the following day to staff at Jungle Zoo, Cleethorpes.
A spokeswoman there said: "No doubt the fitter who spotted it and had the courage to put it in his hand will be relieved to know his life was not in danger.
"We were able to identify the spider as a *nephilengys*



WHEELIE SURPRISED: Charlie Bailey, who found the African spider at Bush Tyres, on Brigg Road, Scunthorpe.

cruentata. This particular spider is female, medium-sized and makes an orb-shaped web.
"Like all spiders it is poisonous but the species is not dangerous to humans.
"The spider, nicknamed Bushy, is now living happily at the Jungle Zoo."
Bushy crawled into North Lincolnshire hot on the heels of a Goliath bird-eating tarantula.
That arrived in a package from South Africa opened at the ConocoPhillips oil refinery, in South Killingholme, last month.

Full steam ahead for group's debut



THE first meeting of the Railway Correspondence Travel Society Humber-side Branch (Scunthorpe Series) will be held tomorrow at the Ashby Star, Rochdale Road, Scunthorpe (7.30pm).

The speaker will be Les Nixon, the nationally renowned photographer, whose topic will be The Railways of Derbyshire.

Members and visitors are very welcome to attend.

TRAIN BUFF: For further information contact John Foreman on (01724) 720598.

Wind of change at park

CHILDREN in Burton-Up-on-Stather now have access to new play equipment.

Wind farm company RidgeWind stumped up £6,000 to the Burton Playing Field Association for a new slide and climbing frame.

The company owns the wind farm at Bagmoor, near Normanby, and wants to build another one near Flixborough.

PFA member Noel Thornes said: "The grant, coupled with funds from the Local 2000 Club Lottery, has enabled the existing equipment to be replaced, overcoming health and safety issues at the playground."

Open day great success

CROWLE fire station opened its doors so the public could admire its revamp.

The station, on Fieldside, benefited from new facilities costing £220,000 earlier this year.

Visitors were shown a road traffic collision drill in which firefighters used equipment to demonstrate the rescue of a mock victim.

Firefighter Paul Hope said: "The day went brilliantly. We had around 150 visitors. The event was fun but also very informative. "Everyone was impressed with the station's refurbishment."

ONLINE POLL

In our online poll, we asked:

Do you think enough has been done to improve the current economic situation?

The results were:
YES 54% NO 46%

To take part in our daily poll, visit our website
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