

# Charity not deterred by fun day cancellation

FUNDRAISERS are down but not out, despite wet weather causing the cancellation of their charity event.

The Bridge for Heroes had a whole series of fun family events planned for outside the Plough pub, in Farcet Fen, last Sunday, May 2, but had to scrap it after the rain came.

The charity is looking to raise £400,000 to open up the former Bridge Hotel, in Sutton Bridge, near Spalding, into a holiday centre for injured soldiers, and was hoping for a bumper crowd at the event.

But now the group is quickly re-organising to hold a similar fun day later this month on May 26, this time in Sutton Bridge.

Publicity officer Phillip Potts said: "We'd hoped for a good weekend, but unfortunately the weather was atrocious and we couldn't run the event on health and safety grounds."

"It was a shame because it would have been a fantastic day, as we had about 16 stalls, children's and adult bouncy castles, a surfing machine and inflatable sumo wrestlers."

"But we are going to keep rolling on and hold our next fundraiser at the Recreation Field in Sutton Bridge, so we are hoping people who were disappointed by the cancellation will be able to join us for that."

Last weekend was not a total bust for the Bridge for Heroes however, after a series of local bands played inside the pub on the Saturday to a good crowd.

Support for the charity is growing as well, with the Royal Anglian Regiment agreeing to raise money on its behalf during the year.

The group is the brainchild of former Gulf war veteran Mike Taylor and would provide about 480 servicemen with a free five-day break there every year.

It would create 22 full-time and 49 part-time jobs, with parts of the hotel being turned into a subsidised gym and cinema, as well as providing work attachments for those with disabilities.

# Funds boost for charity

VOLUNTEERS for a city charity have collected £1,200 to help Parkinson's disease sufferers.

Parkinson's UK volunteers raised the cash at a collection at Serpentine Green shopping centre at Hampton on April 24.

The collection coincided with many fund raising events being held throughout the country for Parkinson's Awareness Week.

Nigel Evenett, treasurer for the Peterborough branch, thanked everyone who contributed or gave up time on the day.

He said: "I'm new to Peterborough but I'm already impressed with the sense of community here."

The cash collected will go toward helping Peterborough people with Parkinson's and supporting their family and carers.

The charity provides one-to-one help from support workers, as well as weekly movement and coordination classes such as tai chi and pilates.

Anyone interested in further information about the branch should contact Susan Lamb on 01733 340540 or visit the website, www.parkinsonsuk.org.uk

# Lane fly-tipping costs £52,000

By ADAM UREN

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**FLY-TIPPERS** who regularly turn a quiet Peterborough lane into a garbage-filled grot-spot are costing taxpayers up to £52,000 a year.

The filthy state of Norwood Lane, in Paston Ridings, has been immortalised on YouTube by a disgusted city resident and picked up by city blogger Jonathan Frascella, who suggested it could be the "worst road in the UK".

Peterborough City Council has also described it as the worst grot-spot in the city.

It has revealed that its teams clear it every four to six weeks at a cost of £4,000 each time, costing the council up to £52,000 a year.

Couches, wooden pallets and mounds of tyres are among the rubbish dumped into the road.

David Denson, head of operations for the council's city services, said that each clean-up takes five to seven working days to do and often by the time their work is done, rubbish is already being dumped back on the road.

Cllr Peter Hiller, portfolio holder for city services, said: "Our teams are of aware of it and it costs the taxpayer a lot of money."

"It's a reprehensible practice but unfortunately there are no easy solutions."

"We are investigating whether we can carry out some covert surveillance in areas particularly known for fly-tipping."

"I would certainly say Norwood Lane is one of the worst."

Fly-tippers who leave clues about their identities when dumping their rubbish on the road are tracked down whenever possible by the council and can face a maximum fine of £50,000 if caught.

The road leads to Norwood Lane Travellers' Site but the council's traveller liaison officer said people should not jump to conclusions and blame them for the mess because residents and businesses are just as culpable.

He said: "The rubbish is not just being dumped by the travellers who live on the site - local residents and businesses are also responsible for this fly-tipping."

Until the issue is sorted, Peterborough faces internet notoriety with blogger Mr Frascella saying he was shocked when he saw the state of the road.

He said: "When I first saw the video on YouTube I just thought it was horrific. It's really obvious that this has been going on for quite a while and I was quite shocked by what I saw."

Paston councillor Sue Day said it had always been a problem on the road but so far nobody had a solution. She said: "What could be done? You can't close the road and CCTV is expensive. It's especially irritating when the waste centre is less than



**FLY-TIPPING:** Even though the council has recently finished a cleaning blitz Norwood Lane is still a grot-spot. (METP-10-05-10RH4) Picture: ROWLAND HOBSON.

## The problems in Paston Ridings

- Peterborough City Council clears rubbish from Norwood Lane every four to six weeks, or eight to 13 times per year.
- People successfully prosecuted for fly-tipping can receive a maximum £50,000 fine and six months in jail.
- The fire brigade has been called to the road seven times this year so far, mostly for unattended rubbish fires, with two false alarms.
- A video of the road uploaded onto YouTube has so far had more than 225 viewings and been posted onto Twitter, Facebook and the ET website.

a mile down the road."

City MP Stewart Jackson said that the council should look to the example of other authorities to see how to deal with the issue.

He said: "They need to look to the experience of other local authorities and see how they implement better surveillance and work with the Environment Agency."

"I think persistent fly-tippers should be named and shamed like kerb crawlers and repeated anti-social behaviour offenders."



**TYRE-ING:** It takes city council teams a week to clear the road, but these tyres were dumped after cleaners had finished their work. (METP-10-05-10RH9) Picture: ROWLAND HOBSON.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Car left ransacked after a failed theft

A WOULD-BE thief was left empty-handed after ransacking a car in Peterborough. They entered an unlocked garage in Brookfurlong where they smashed the back window of a Vauxhall Astra and searched inside it. It happened between 7pm on May 4 and 5.20pm on May 5. Anyone with information should call police on 0345 4564564 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Police hunt vandals who scratched car

A CAR has been damaged by vandals in Bourne. The Honda Civic vehicle was parked in a driveway on Thyme Avenue, in Bourne, when the incident happened, between April 24 and 27. Offenders scratched the back of the vehicle. Contact Lincolnshire Police on 0300 111 0300 with information.

### Clothes thief steals from washing line

A THIEF stole items of clothing from a washing line in Chatteris. The offender struck on May 6 between 8.30am and 3.15pm in Clare Street, Chatteris, near Peterborough. A police spokesperson said: "The offender entered a rear garden and stole items of clothing from a washing line." Anyone with information is asked to call police on 0345 456 4564.

### Bin stolen by crook from back garden

A BIN has been stolen from a back garden in Peterborough. The thief managed to steal the bin from the back yard of a home in Ellindon, Bretton. It happened between 9.40pm on May 5 and 3.30pm on May 6. Anyone with information about theft should call police in Peterborough on 0345 4564564 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

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