

BAGS of money at disco

A DISCO and band night at Birstall Social club has raised £3500.

It was organised by the ladies of Birstall BAGS, the cancer charity fundraising group, and brings the total they have raised to over £20,000.

BAG lady Emma Shaw said: "We would like to thank everyone for coming, it was a fantastic night and we are overwhelmed by how generous people are. The band were brilliant again and I'm sure you will agree that it was just the tonic we all needed after a week in the snow."

"There are many people to thank that without their help the night would not have run so smoothly; everyone who donated raffle and auction prizes, the social club for letting us hold the venue there, Smurf on the door, Chris the DJ, Moppo for the tickets, Chris for his great help with badges and posters, all the girls who helped us set up in the daytime, Joe for his help with the band and every one of you who bought a raffle ticket or just came along, hope I haven't missed anybody!"

She added: "We have a vision of how we would like to use the money raised and with all your support we hope to be able to fund our cancer awareness campaign around Birstall and in our local community, so thank you so very much for helping us on our way."

Events planned for this year include a 5k/3mile run/walk in July. For more details contact Emma 07837028451 or Rachael 0798922173



School's extended services

A RANGE of extra curricular activities for pupils at Stonehill school is being developed as part of its Extended Schools offer.

A government initiative, all schools will provide access to a core offer of extended activities by 2010. The aim is to improve educational attainment, self confidence, motivation and attendance by providing a varied menu of activities including study support, play/recreation, sport, music, arts and crafts and other special interest clubs.

Extended services at Stonehill include:
 • before school : French masterclass, choir
 • lunchtime : homework clubs, rock band rehearsal, guitar and drum club, basketball, drama club, art club, technology club, Christian Union, chess club, media/newspaper club
 • after school : Boccia club, swimming club, girls football, badminton, textiles club, basketball, hockey, speech and language club, urban rebounding club, netball, rugby, hip hop dance, wind band, indoor cricket, cheer-leading and karate.

Stonehill are consulting pupils and parents about setting up a before school breakfast club. The school is also extending its music and performing arts programme : additional practice rooms are to be built for use at lunchtimes and after school and more guitars, drum kits and microphones have been bought to support the growing number of pupils interested in setting up rock bands.

The Extended Schools offering should also include opportunities for family learning, access to specialist services such as speech and language therapy and community access to ICT and sports facilities.

Primary schools will provide childcare from 8am to 6pm, 48 weeks of the year, either at school or arranged with a nearby provider.

The Government has announced a total of £1.3 billion in funding for extended services over the period 2008-11. Currently over two thirds of schools nationwide are providing a core offer of extended services.

Top council

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY Council has been rated as top transport authority in a comparison with other county councils.

The study, by Price Waterhouse Coopers, compares Leicestershire's performance to 31 other county councils.

For 2007/8 Leicestershire was rated as the top performing county council transport authority based on a range of highways and transportation services, such as reducing road traffic accidents, the condition of roads and footways and repairing street lights.

The percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people and the amount of people using buses, also contributed to the result.

New top Policeman

A NEW Inspector has taken over at Charnwood Local Policing Unit.

Inspector Duncan Southall joined Leicestershire Constabulary in December 1998 and worked as a General Duties Officer (GDO) and Beat Officer (PBO) in Coalville until 2001 when he became a Sergeant. He worked in a variety of roles at Loughborough, Ashby and Coalville. He transferred to the city as a Shift Sergeant in September 2006 and became a Citizen Focus Sergeant at Spinney Hill Local Policing Unit in February 2007. He was promoted to Acting Inspector in January 2008 and worked as an Operational Command Inspector, directing resources and responding to priority incidents across the city, before transferring back to the North Area in November 2008.

Inspector Southall replaces Inspector Cathy Yallop, who has led policing in Charnwood since 2005. Inspector Yallop will become an Operational Command Inspector for the North Area.

Inspector Southall said: "I am really looking forward to working with the policing teams at Syston and Quorn and building on the good work, and many strong partnerships, that already exist across the Charnwood area."

"I am particularly keen to work with individuals and groups from the communities we serve to tackle those people who commit crime and whose behaviour adversely affects the quality of life of local residents. One of my priorities will be to make sure our resources are targeted effectively to tackle the issues that are important to the people who live in our communities. The key to this is effective communication and making ourselves accessible to everyone, in other words responding to what you tell us."



Pic: Inspector Duncan Southall

"Customer satisfaction and confidence are also very important to me. These two issues are going to be key ones for the police in the next five years and I want to make sure that people who come into contact with Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers from Charnwood are pleased with the service they receive."

"If you have any issues at all please do not hesitate to contact me by phone, email or letter."

Inspector Cathy Yallop said: "Implementing Neighbourhood Policing across the South Charnwood area has been one of the most satisfying aspects of my work at the LPU. I have enjoyed my time at the LPU and would like to thank colleagues and local communities for their support."

Inspector Southall lives in North West Leicestershire, is married and has two children.

Support group

PEOPLE IN the South Charnwood area are being invited to join a new group which will aim to actively support people, on both sides of the conflict, who are seeking justice and peace in Palestine and Israel.

The group will support bridge building projects in a variety of ways, including exchange visits and group links, selling craft items and produce, increasing public awareness and fundraising. The group also plans to link up with other similar groups in Leicester and beyond.

One of the projects that the group want to help is Daoud Nasser's Tent of Nations . spokeswoman Ursula Greaves said: "Daoud, a Christian whose family probably stretches back to the first ever Christians, lives and works in the Bethlehem area. A growing community of people live and work on the Nasser family farm and a steady stream of volunteers, local and international, come to join in the activities of the community and learn about the land. The Tent of Nations works with young people in the Bethlehem area, giving them hope for the future through the arts, drama and education as well as by showing that it is possible to make a living from the land. It demonstrates a commitment to peace and coexistence and is engaged in dialogue with Muslims, Christians and Jews."

The first meeting will be later this month. Please ring Lesley Walton, Birstall 2674995 or Ursula Greaves, Rothley 2303500, if you are interested or would like further information.

Big veg box

RIVER NENE organic vegetables have launched a new 'roots and greens' box for 2009.

Priced at £11.95 and delivered free, River Nene say its aimed at thrifty cooks.

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