

Man dies in car crash

POLICE HAVE named the man killed in a fatal road traffic collision in Birstall.

The incident happened at 2.17am on Monday May 11, 2008 on Greengate Lane when a blue Peugeot 206 left the road and was in collision with a fence.

19-year-old Mr David James Freeland, of no fixed abode, received fatal injuries. 18-year-old James Freeland, the victim's brother, was taken to the Leicester Royal Infirmary with serious injuries and has since been discharged.

At Leicester Magistrates Court, on May 14, Freeland of Lower Hester Street, Northampton, was charged with burglary and was remanded into custody.

On May 13 three other men appeared before magistrates charged with burgling a house, stealing house and car keys and allowing themselves to be taken in a car without the owner's consent. They are Patrick McNoggle (18) of Pitstone Road, Northampton, Derry Croshaw (19) of Floribunda Drive, Northampton and Lawrence Watt (20) of Gladstone Road, Northampton. They have been released on police bail pending further enquiries.

The road was closed from its junction with Woodgate Drive and the A6 Loughborough Road to allow officers to deal with the incident and examine the scene.

Just prior to the collision, the vehicle had failed to stop for a police patrol car although it was not pursuing the vehicle at the time of the collision. The matter was referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) and they have agreed that they will have no further involvement in the investigation.

Detective Sergeant Ivan Stafford, who is leading the investigation, said: "We urgently need to speak to anyone who has any information either about the collision or the circumstances leading up to it. The Peugeot was

travelling towards Thurstaston before the collision so if you saw the vehicle in the area, then we would ask you to contact us. Any information, however small it may seem could be vital to our investigation."

Anyone with any information about the collision is asked to contact DC 1852 Robert Lapworth on Leicester (0116) 222 2222, follow the instructions to leave a message for a police officer and when prompted key in the officer's identification number 1852. Alternatively contact Crimestoppers, which is free and anonymous on 0800 555 111.

Looking for footballers

BIRSTALL CC Juniors Football Club has four junior teams in the age groups U11s to U15s for the next season 2009/10 and is looking to recruit players who are interested in joining these teams.

The teams play on School Lane Playing Fields and Harrowgate Drive Playing Fields and being affiliated to Longslade Community College they train on the grass at Longslade in the evening throughout summer, autumn and spring. In the winter they train on Longslade's all weather pitch. The club also supports an Old Boys Team.

Parents or players can contact the club chairman, Peter Herbert, on 0116 2676161 for further information.

Beetle drive cash

THE CHARNWOOD Branch of Cancer Research held their very first Beetle Drive at Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall.



Pic: Greta and Dennis Allen from Birstall playing at the Beetle Drive

Over 60 people enjoyed this fun and friendly event. The idea of the game of 'beetle' is to draw a complete beetle with the head first, then the body, followed by the other parts. How quick you are at drawing a beetle depends on the roll of a dice. After each game when the first person had drawn a beetle, the two with the highest score moved on to another table. The game caused a lot of laughter and moving from table to table meant that everyone got to know each other. Was there a little cheating going on! Surely not. There certainly was a lot of scrambling on the floor to find the dice. The evening also included a buffet supper and a raffle.

The event raised £430 and our thanks go to all who supported this new venture.
From Jan Gaskell

Supper with friends

SUPPER with Friends is a Leicestershire based social group for unattached men and women over 50.

It is a friendly group, and its emphasis is on friendship, value for money and informality. It is not a dating or matchmaking club. The group has enjoyed a variety of events, and members are enjoying making new friends in convivial surroundings.

Members who have recently renewed their membership have said:

"An absolutely brilliant concept, I have very much enjoyed it."

"Thoroughly enjoyed every event I attended - great crowd of people."

"Wonderful. Nice meals. Good venues. Please keep up the good work."

"Excellent, I've made some good friends, well done."

"SwF has made such a difference and has improved the quality of my life."

Events planned for the near future include a theatre visit to the Town Hall, Loughborough, Sunday lunch at the Marina Café at Pillings Lock near Barrow, skittles and supper at The Greyhound, Botcheston and an evening walk and supper at Burrough on the Hill.

"Enjoy the coming of summer in good company, have some fun and meet new friends" says spokeswoman Anne Kingham.

If you would like to know more about Supper with Friends and enjoy delectable suppers and companionable events please contact Anne on 01509 416823 or email Kate at: supperwithfriends@gmail.com

Connect2 work starts

WORK HAS begun on transforming Thurmaston Lock Bridge to make Watermead Country Park more accessible.

The improvements are part of the £1.4million Sustrans Connect2 project which won a share of £50million Big Lottery Fund grant in December 2007 following a public vote.

The revamp will involve building a wider bridge at Mill Lane in Thurmaston with more gentle approaches to make it easier to cross. Currently, the ramps up to the bridge are very steep, making it difficult to negotiate for cyclists or parents with buggies and impossible for someone using a wheelchair.

The nature of the park - a series of paths, lakes and waterways, combined with the access difficulties around the bridge, mean that a conventional crane cannot be used to position the new bridge. Instead, it will be transported to Mill Lane via a low-loader and lifted into place using a barge-mounted crane.

Over the next five years, significant improvements will be carried out by the County Council on paths and trails in and around the park, improving links from surrounding villages and into the city's well established cycling network. The improvements will include new crossings at busy roads, and alterations to several other bridges in the park.

A Leicestershire County Council spokesperson said: "The park is popular with visitors from all over the city and county and the increased publicity since Sustrans won the lottery fund has helped to boost the number of people using the park by around 18%. We want to make sure that the changes over the next five years will greatly improve accessibility into and around the park for all these people."

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Cadets' 20 mile hike
TRUDGING THROUGH rivers carrying buckets of water and blindfolded obstacle courses were just some of the highlights for eight groups from 1947 (Birstall) ATC Squadron when they took part in the Charnwood Hike.
The near 20 mile course through the Leicestershire countryside is organised by the Boys Brigade every year, and this year 1947 squadron ATC entered eight teams of both girls and boys for the gruelling challenge. One team, made up of Cpl Oliver Collins, Cpl Alex Taylor and Cdt Kit Healey finished third.
Starting at Markfield and finishing at the Outdoor Pursuits Centre, near Birstall, a distance of nearly 20 miles was covered. Not only did the cadets have to criss-cross through the countryside, they also had to complete the challenges which were positioned along the way - these included carrying each other on stretchers, completing obstacle courses while blindfolded and many other initiative exercises. "All of the eight teams which took part showed good endurance and managed to keep a high morale throughout" said office in Charge Paul Vissani.
Pic: Proud cadets show off their achievement, from left: Cpl Oliver Collins, Cpl Alex Taylor and Cdt Kit Healey

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