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Mail says ...

Dreamscheme deserves to win award

Dreamscheme is a two-fold project which helps young people and benefits the community in South Derbyshire.

The group is now in the running for a top regional honour for two successful projects it has run focused on getting local people involved in growing and then using their own fruit and vegetables.

Dreamscheme was set up in 2011 and has helped give eight to 18-year-olds a chance to join a team and take part in activities that benefit the community.

It was set up by South Derbyshire District Council and has been shortlisted in the Excellence in Youth Involvement category at the Central Tenant Participation Advisory Service (Tpas) Awards – an annual ceremony that commemorates inspirational success stories. The awards focus on giving recognition to people going above and beyond in their communities and promotes, supports and champions tenant involvement and empowerment across the UK.

The Dreamscheme projects get the community involved and the benefits of growing and then using fresh fruit and vegetables at an allotment are great.

In this day and age when we are all more concerned about what goes into our food, these sort of projects run by Dreamscheme are ideal. Growing your own fruit and veg is a great skill to learn that will serve people well throughout their lives. It is also great fun to get involved with and gives a huge sense of achievement.

Let's hope Dreamscheme can bring home an award for top worthwhile projects.

Get behind the fight to save A&E

The petition to save Burton's Queen's Hospital's accident and emergency department has now passed the 40,000 signatures mark.

Burton's is one of three A&Es in Staffordshire that bosses are looking at with a view to making one an urgent care centre. It is claimed the changes will mean they can deliver better care in Staffordshire and save money.

But the move has angered many, including here at the Burton Mail where we have launched a campaign to save our A&E. Burton MP Andrews Griffiths has joined the fight and launched the petition to show the strength of feeling in the town. The number of people who have so far signed the petition shows just how important Burton people view the A&E department as. We would urge you add your voice to the fight.

FUND-RAISING



Tom Stokes is planning to climb to the summit of Mont Blanc to raise money for good causes.

Tom's trek to top of Mont Blanc for hospital causes

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'I know it's going to be a gruelling challenge but it will be well worth it when I have achieved my aim.'

Tom Stokes

A fitness fanatic father is hoping to reach new heights to thank the teams who were there for him when his three children were born and cared for his son when the tot contracted meningitis.

Tom Stokes is preparing to pull on his climbing boots and brave the extreme cold as he tackles Mont Blanc, in the Alps, to raise money for the maternity units at Burton's Queen's Hospital and Samuel Johnson Community Hospital, in Lichfield, where his three children were born.

The 36-year-old, of Ran-

gemore, is no stranger to climbing having grown up near the 1,085 metre high Mount Snowdon in North Wales but his next adventure will push him to his limits as he attempts to climb the French mountain which peaks at 4,089 metres.

Mr Stokes, a member of the Old Bromsgrovia Expedition Club, said the adventure was no mean feat even for a seasoned climber.

He said: "It's been a lifelong ambition of mine to climb Mont Blanc. I know it's going to be a gruelling challenge but it will be well worth it when I have achieved my aim and I am standing at the summit."

"When I decided to do the trek, I thought it would be a

great idea to combine it with raising money for a good cause and I can't think of a better one than the trust's maternity units.

"All three of my children were born either at Burton or Lichfield and the staff were second to none. My eldest child Oliver, who was born premature, sadly had to return to Queen's Hospital when he contracted meningitis at three months old and needed specialist care.

"The medical treatment he received was amazing and Oliver's mum and I were given a huge amount of support from everyone.

"Raising money for the maternity units is my way of saying thank you to them and of giving something back for

everything they have given my family."

Mr Stokes is being supported by his family business John Stokes Ltd and is due to set off on his trek on Sunday, July 23 and aims to complete the challenge by July 30.

To make sure he is at his optimum fitness level, he has one-on-one training each week with former Irish bouldering champion Jonny Argue, based at Boulder Central in West Bromwich, and he also undergoes personal training.

Anyone who wants to help Mr Stokes achieve his goal of raising £2,500 for Burton Hospitals NHS Trust Charitable Fund can sponsor him by visiting www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Thomas-Stokes3

ALL ABOUT THE ALPS' HIGHEST MOUNTAIN

Mont Blanc, meaning "White Mountain", is the highest mountain in the Alps and rises 4,808m (15,774ft) above sea level.

The mountain lies in a range called the Graian Alps, between the regions of Aosta Valley, Italy, and Savoie and Haute-Savoie, France. The first recorded ascent of Mont Blanc was on 8 August 1786

by Jacques Balmat and the doctor Michel Paccard. This climb traditionally marks the start of modern mountaineering.

The first woman to reach the summit was Marie Paradis in 1808. In 1886, future US President Theodore Roosevelt led an expedition to the peak.

Nowadays the summit is ascen-

ded by an average of 20,000 mountaineer-tourists each year.

In 1946 a drilling project was started to carve a tunnel through the mountain. The Mont Blanc tunnel would connect Chamonix, France and Courmayeur, Italy and become one of the major trans-Alpine transport routes between the two countries. In 1965 the tun-

nel opened to vehicle traffic with a length of 7.215 miles.

In 1999 a transport truck caught fire in the tunnel beneath the mountain. In total 39 people were killed when the fire raged out of control.

The tunnel was renovated in the aftermath to increase driver safety, reopening after three years.