

Community champions are sought

NEWARK MP Robert Jenrick has launched a set of community awards championing good works done during the covid pandemic.

Mr Jenrick said: "Across our district, people have come together during covid to carry out extraordinary acts of kindness and have really helped and inspired others.

"To celebrate this, I am running a Community Award to honour those local groups and individuals who have really made a difference during this pandemic — our covid heroes."

All applications should demonstrate how they have improved aspects of the community in which they live or work or have gone out of their way to help others.

This could be in a variety of ways, such as helping others and tackling loneliness, shopping for people, setting up projects and services, activities to tackle physical and mental health, keeping a community clean and tidy, or volunteering for charities.

There are three awards — community leader; young community leader and community group.

Nomination forms are available at www.robertjenrick.com/communityawards or, for those without internet, through his constituency office on 01636 612837.

Pupil's sensory garden is a place for children to relax

By Tracey Davies
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A 12-YEAR-OLD boy is hoping to raise thousands of pounds to create a sensory garden at his school.

Clem Beardmore, of Bottesford, needs to raise at least £3,500 for the garden, which will give pupils at the village's Priory Belvoir Academy a place to go to relax, reflect and enjoy some quiet time.

Clem, who has a rare neurological condition affecting his mobility, has grand plans for the garden, including a water wall, bird feeders, canopy, pergola, raised flower beds and a butterfly corner.

He said: "I want the garden to be a place where people can go to chill out if they are stressed about exams, etc.

"It will give them a chance to reflect and have five minutes to themselves."

A memorial bench will also be installed in memory of a former pupil who died in September.

With help from his mum, Kate, and The Friends of Belvoir, who are helping with the garden project, Clem has embarked on a number of fundraising initiatives to try and meet his target, including running a tuck shop in school, hosting a sweet and a sunflower competition and a non-uniform day.

He is also planning to sell his old toys at a car boot sale to raise even more money.



AT THE site of the garden are, left to right, Clem Beardmore, Kate Beardmore and assistant head John Miller.

His determination and enthusiasm does not stop there.

On Saturday, he will be cycling 16 miles around Rutland Water on a sponsored bike ride alongside assistant head John Miller.

Members of the community have rallied round to support the project with donations of labour and offers of practical help, including from garden designer Alan Mason.

Local businesses have also donated variety of raffle prizes, from hampers to vouchers offering a whole

range of services and items, including fish and chips, hair cuts, fruit and vegetables, meat, coffee, a boiler service, dog walking, will writing and an entire Oreo cake.

They have also received bottles of wine, Champagne, fitness sessions and vouchers from both Belton Garden Centre and East Bridgford garden centre.

The raffle, which will be drawn on July 9, has already raised £500 towards the target.

Volunteers, including mum Kate,

Clem, staff and pupils, have already helped to clear the derelict land destined to be the garden outside the pastoral area, filling up an entire skip in the process.

They are still in need of raffle prizes and practical help and would like to hear from anyone who can assist.

To buy raffle tickets at £2 a strip, contact Kate on kate.beardmore@cps.gov.uk or call 07702 002575.

To make a donation, go to www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/vale-courtsensory-garden



Bishops out on tour to offer thanks and prayer

THE Bishop of Southwell, the Right Rev Paul Williams, and the Bishop of Sherwood, the Right Rev Andy Emerton, visited Archbishop Cranmer Primary Academy in Aslockton, as part of their prayer tour of the diocese.

The children welcomed the bishops with song, prayer and poems, some of which they had written themselves.

Bishops Paul and Andy completed their visit by blessing the pupils in prayer.

Bishop Paul said: "It was truly wonderful to visit Archbishop Cranmer and to be greeted by

pupils with an amazing performance of songs, prayers and poems.

"It's an incredible highlight of three days touring across the diocese, praying for people and saying thank you for the amazing way people have served through the pandemic."

Deputy head Mrs Lauren Rogers said: "The children wanted to share their joy and hope with the bishops."

Head Mrs Melanie Stevens said: "We are forever thankful for the bishops' blessing on our school."

Police operation launched to tackle crime in rural areas

POLICE say they are making significant in-roads in the fight against rural crime through an ongoing operation launched in response to concerns in rural communities that they were softer targets for burglary and theft.

Operation Sahara is taking place in the villages north of Bingham, run by Rushcliffe's Reacher team.

The latest areas to benefit from a dedicated police blitz over two days were Flintham, Syerston and Screveton.

Rushcliffe's district commander Inspector Craig Berry said it had made a significant impact on the ability of travelling criminals to operate.

He said: "Once a month we do days of action in a different area targeting rural crime problems. We carry out vehicle stops, enforcement and gather intelligence.

"The operation was launched at a time of a gradually-emerging crime problem of theft and acquisitive crime within rural communities, particularly overnight. This included the theft of plant machinery, vehicles, particularly off-road ones, and power tools.

"In response to that, we developed our intelligence and carried out a lot of enforcement action last year — executing search warrants to recover stolen property and arresting a number of people.

"We dealt with that problem but kept a focus on burglary and theft in rural areas and periodically run these operations, taking the fight to rural areas where people told us they felt quite vulnerable.

"We are there to show them that we doing our job, showing a presence and reassuring them."

The operation's aim is to disrupt the activities of the travelling criminal by stopping the vehicles that they use, whether they be stolen, on cloned plates, unroadworthy, or uninsured.

On the first day of the latest action, two people were reported for summons to court for having no insurance, and a vehicle was seized.

Another vehicle was reported for no road tax, a prohibition notice was issued for a vehicle defect, one driver is to be prosecuted for speeding and another for not being in proper control of their vehicle. One driver was given advice on an insecure load.

Following day two, three drivers will be prosecuted for having no insurance, two vehicles were seized, one driver is to be prosecuted for not being in

proper control of their vehicle, two for driving while using a mobile phone, and two for contravening red traffic lights.

Seven vehicles were searched and 44 stopped.

Reacher has also been using Nottinghamshire Police's drone for scoping areas and directing ground units.

"It is important vehicles used in criminality are taken off our roads," said Inspector Berry.

"We are definitely seeing a downward trend in acquisitive crime in rural locations. Our roads policing operations are having a significant effect. It's bearing fruit.

"Whenever we receive intelligence we will act on it, raid and make arrests.

"Where the problem goes, we will follow."

More days of action are planned for July and August.