

Fire crew called after collision

ROSS-ON-WYE firefighters were called to Lea on Thursday evening (January 19th) at 4.20pm, to reports of a road traffic collision on the A40.

The fire crew made one vehicle safe, following the collision. They had been told that there was smoke coming from the bonnet, and it was discovered that this had been caused by a blown engine.

Driver arrested

RORY John James, 23, of Smallbrook Gardens, Ross-on-Wye, was arrested on Monday, January 23rd and charged with aggravated vehicle taking and dangerous driving, using a motor vehicle on a road/public place without third party insurance, driving a motor vehicle otherwise than in accordance with a licence and failing to stop a mechanically propelled vehicle when required by constable/traffic warden.

This follows an incident in Ross-on-Wye on August 6th last year.

He was bailed to appear at Hereford Magistrates' Court on February 23rd.

Wildlife becomes main attraction

SEVERAL local residents have contacted the *Ross Gazette* recently to say that the vast amount of fish in the Rudhall Brook, which were spotted near to the swimming pool and gym, seems to be diminishing.

The huge number of fish sparked a great deal of interest among residents and visitors, as the *Gazette* has reported in previous issues. It is believed that the cause of this decrease in fish population could be due to the large number of birds, including two herons and an egret, who have been seen on the roof of the swimming pool and in branches nearby. They think the fish have probably made an easy dinner for the birds.

Help Neighbourhood Plan protect local Green Spaces

WORK on the Ross-on-Wye Neighbourhood Plan is reaching a key stage. One thing the Plan can include is small areas of land (even private land) that might qualify as 'Local Green Spaces'. Very importantly, if they qualify they can be protected from all future development.

Local people have already suggested six possible areas but the steering group is hoping that they will receive more suggestions over the next few weeks.

Any suggestions need to be for small areas important to a local community and that are special or distinctive in terms of, any or all of the following; beauty, wildlife, history, recreation or tranquillity.

It is a tough task to get them through a demanding planning

process, so they will eventually need more than just a list, but that can be dealt with later.

If anybody wishes to suggest a possible Local Green Space please email details to Melvin Reynolds chair@rossneighbourhoodplan.org.uk or c/o Ross Town Council, Corn Exchange, 7 High Street, Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5HL.

You can also go online to visit the Neighbourhood Plan website www.rossneighbourhoodplan.org.uk and either suggest a new site or comment on those already suggested.

For new suggestions the steering group needs to know exactly where the suggested area is and why you think it might be special or distinctive. And you need to leave your name and contact details please.

Police on poacher alert

POACHERS have been using dogs to kill and harm deer in Ross-on-Wye, the Forest of Dean and Monmouth, local police have said.

Monmouthshire Gwent Police Constable Chris Butt said: "Poachers have little regard for the countryside or the farmer's land that they trespass on. In the Monmouthshire area, concerns have been raised of poachers targeting wildlife, including deer and boar by using dogs and weapons.

"High visibility patrols are being stepped up in forestry areas to target poachers and to send out a strong message and act as a deterrent that this criminal behaviour will not be tolerated in Gwent. We are stopping

any suspicious vehicles and signs have been erected in prominent forestry entrances warning poachers of police activity and the potential for prosecution."

Tri-Force Joint Operations are taking place between Gwent, Gloucester and West Mercia police forces assisted by partnership agencies; Natural Resources Wales and the Forestry Commission of England.

PC Butt added: "I would urge anyone to contact us with any information that would help in catching poachers by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency. Alternatively, you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Christmas Fayre boost for St Michael's Hospice



MEMBERS of Ross Town Council's Events Committee, Councillor Hannah Lerego and Councillor Valerie Coker visited St Michael's Hospice last week.

The purpose of the visit was to present a cheque to the charity on behalf of the Committee following the Christmas event in Ross-on-Wye. The Councillors were also pleased to be invited on a tour of the Hospice to see the work the charity is involved with. Committee Chairman Cllr Lerego said: "It was very impressive and very humbling."

The Committee's Working Group worked for many months to ensure the Christmas Fayre was a great suc-

cess and they have been delighted with the many positive comments and feedback received.

They presented St Michael's Hospice with a cheque for £435.

The Councillors said that the Hospice is a very tranquil place, with lovely art work which incorporated lots of wildlife and outdoor scenes. As well as the ward, they visited the education section, the Library for medical professionals, the room of remembrance, a teenage chill room and children's playroom, along with a new cafe, gift shop and bereavement rooms.

By election called for Ross West Ward

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