

COMMUNITY NEWS

Action group leapt out of woods into awards



Members of the Bredhurst Woodland Action Group with Ben Nicholas from Neighbours

Picture: Lisa Whitebread

Top prize for thriving village volunteers who protected woodland

by Jenni Horn

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A COMMUNITY group working to protect an area of ancient woodland has won a volunteering award.

The Bredhurst Woodland Action Group (BWAG) was honoured in the Kent Volunteers Awards in the Environment Agency category.

The group, which consists of villagers and parish council members, has been working for

the last two years to stop Bredhurst Hurst and Monkdon Wood being used by fly-tippers and off-road drivers.

BWAG were one of more than 650 nominees from across Kent and 47 winners who received awards at a special ceremony at the Ramada Hotel, Maidstone.

Energetic

The awards acknowledge the wide range of volunteering activities and offer thanks to the support of business and voluntary sector organisations in Kent.

BWAG was nominated by Bredhurst Parish Council chairman Suresh Khanna and was picked by the judges for its energetic

and highly successful campaign which has been of enormous environmental benefit.

After beginning with just six members in May 2005, the group now involves more than 160 people and has raised thousands of pounds to protect the woodland. The volunteers have organised clean-up days, fence restoration, fun days and much more.

Chairman of the group, Vanessa Jones, said: "It's nice to have some recognition for all the work we have done and helps motivate us to keep going."

To join the BWAG contact Vanessa Jones on 07813785940 or e-mail postmaster@vanessajones.plus.com

Anniversary fun for Cubs

CUB Scouts are gearing up for massive celebrations tomorrow, Saturday, to mark the 90th anniversary of their branch of the movement.

About 250 Cubs, leaders and guests will have a party in the tunnels of Fort Amherst, Chatham, to mark the occasion.

Wolf Cubs was launched on December 16, 1916 to provide scouting for eight to 11-year-olds, who, until then were not able to join the Boy Scouts. The name was changed to Cub Scouts in 1967.

Medway district is one of the largest in the country with more than 1,000 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and explorers.

Celebrations for the Scouts' centenary in 2007 are also being planned.

HAPPY TALES: Pub can be proud of its efforts for charity

STAFF and regulars from the Canterbury Tales pub, in Gillingham, have handed over a bumper sum to the Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Unit.

Their fund-raising efforts during the past couple of months realised an impressive £1,345 for the unit at Medway Maritime Hospital.

Various events were held at the pub in Canterbury Street, including a family barbecue day, head-shavings, waxings and raffles. The men who were brave enough to have their heads shaved and bodies waxed raised an impressive £800.

Brian Messenger, general manager of the pub, said: "I would like to say a big thank-you to all the businesses and customers."



From left, Pat Bagley, Oliver Fisher coordinator, Alan Baker, assistant manager of the Canterbury Tales, baby Abigail, Dr Jani, from Medway Maritime Hospital, and pub general manager Brian Messenger

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Come and sample foreign flavours

SHOPPERS in Rainham can get a taste of Europe during a continental Christmas market today.

Traders selling products from France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Poland, Spain and the UK have taken up stalls in Rainham Shopping Centre.

Pates, herbs, sausages, bread and traditional warm Gluhwein will be available, with French and Italian fashion.

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