

Petting farm at fete

A PETTING farm, falcons, a vintage tea room and a fire engine will all be at a summer fete.

Westwood Academy, in Hadleigh, is holding the fete to raise money for equipment for its junior school playground.

The day will be held on Saturday, June 28, from 11am to 2pm.

All are welcome to attend.

Get creative with flowers

RAYLEIGH Town Council is running a community competition to create an artificial floral display.

Entries should be submitted to Rayleigh Town Council, The Pavilion, King George V Playing Field, Bull Lane, Rayleigh, by 12pm, on June 27.

The competition is open to all Rayleigh residents, organisations and businesses. Call 01268 741880.

Teenager is charged

A TEENAGER has been charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm on a man at a pub.

Edward Pettitt, 19, of Atherstone Road, Canvey, is alleged to have struck a 27-year-old man on Sunday, April 6, at about 2am.

The alleged victim was said to have been assaulted at the Haystack pub, in Furberwick Road, Canvey. He received head injuries and was taken to Southend Hospital. Pettitt will appear at Southend Magistrates' Court on June 25.

Concert at church

THE annual concert by the Leigh Orpheus Male Voice Choir will be held this month at St Nicholas' Church, Canvey.

The event starts at 7.30pm on Saturday, June 21.

Tickets are available on the door for £7 and £5 concessions.

For more information, call St Nicholas Church on 01268 511098.

A THEATRE show for children will be on at Rayleigh's Mill Hall this Sunday, June 15, at 2pm. To book, call 01702 318191.

A MILE-of-Coins collection in aid of the Keyhole Cancer appeal will take place on Saturday, June 21, in Southend High Street, from 9am to 4.30pm.

GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS TARGET EIGHT SOUTHEND

Street blitz by



■ Team tidy – Street Blitz volunteers prepare for their one-day mission

Pictures: AL UNDERWOOD BA95448_008



■ As it was – before the cleaning crews got to work



■ So long eyesores – clean-up operation in full swing

BA95448_006

ROADS IN A SINGLE DAY'S TIDYING

clean team

By CHRISTINE SEXTON
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A CAMPAIGN to tidy up the streets of Southend got off to a fantastic start, with a united effort to clean up part of the town.

The Echo-backed campaign is the work of the South Essex Association of Landlords (Seal), which aims to ensure all landlords operate to a minimum standard for their properties.

The first Street Blitz saw members of Seal, councillors, residents, volunteers from the Southend Association of Voluntary Services, police and council, along with members of Turning Tides Triple T youth club, turn out in droves to tackle town centre eyesores.

They focused on an area covering eight streets between Whitegate Road and Herbert

It was a huge effort to smarten up eight streets in one day. The turnout was humbling to see

Grove, with the help of local businesses who provided their services free of charge – including GBN Skip Hire, which provided six skips and a team of five employees.

Seal member Judith Codarin said: "It went really well, and the Street Blitz initiative is now launched and ready to learn and grow."

"Saturday morning saw the delivery of the free skips by GBN Skip Hire. By Saturday afternoon at least one in Whitegate was full and the blitz had not even begun."

"On Sunday morning so many people turned up and came out of their houses. It was a huge effort to smarten up eight streets in one day. The turnout was humbling to see."

Ms Codarin added: "We had to get three more cage lorries from GBN to clear the rubbish before the skips could be removed."

Letting agents Pace, Regis Direct and Hopsons helped Seal organise a survey of the roads ahead of the blitz, to highlight problem areas.

Ms Codarin said: "We visited every home in the eight streets, and if we got no answer we called twice. The residents were very positive once we had explained our plans to help them tidy up their streets. "They said they like living so



■ Skip savvy – Julian Ware-Lane gets stuck in

BA95448_003

centrally, but they want the rubbish management and storage improved, so every house has a form of rubbish container that stops animals from tearing open the bags."

Youngsters proved they weren't afraid to roll up their sleeves to get stuck in. Hayley Duff, Turning Tides Triple T youth club team leader, said: "Children aged from seven to 12 took part in the clean-up. They helped with tidying up the gardens, litter-picking and other odd jobs. There were lots of weeds on the pavements, so they helped to clear them."

"They all got stuck in and they enjoyed an ice lolly at the end, as it was quite hot."

Children aged from seven to 12 took part in the clean-up. It gave them a sense of pride



■ Stripping off – the golfers pose Picture: AL UNDERWOOD BA95401

Golfers' cheeky strip-tees scores birdie for charity

GOLFERS have been shedding their Pringle jumpers and colourful trousers to pose naked for charity – with lawnmowers.

Players from Southend Golf Club, based in Belfairs Woods, have already raised nearly £3,000 for Cancer Research UK through their Nomownate campaign.

The project sees men getting naked and then having their picture taken with a lawnmower. The image is then uploaded to the web.

Just like the Nekominate and No Make-up Selfies, posers are then asked to nominate three pals to have their picture taken in the buff.

Ian Southgate, 59, chairman of the club's charity committee, came up with the idea.

He said: "I had this dream about naked men running around with lawnmowers."

"I remember waking and thinking how odd that was, then after telling my wife and seeing the look on her face, I decided then it was something we could do as a laugh for charity."

By GEORGE THORPE
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So far, just over 50 pictures have been taken and uploaded to the internet with participants ranging in age from 24 to 71.

There is no timeframe as when fundraisers will be asked to stop taking the pictures.

Mr Southgate said he had been amazed by the response, even if it had led to a bit of trouble for some of the models.

"It is great to see so many guys have participated," he said.

"One of my friends got in a little bit of bother as he took his picture outside his home, then not very long later he had the police knocking on his door."

"It wasn't until he showed them our Just Giving page on the web that the officers realised what was going on."

To see the images or make a donation, visit www.justgiving.com/nomownate

Give the dog a home

A CHARITY has found a home for its first dog after opening a £7.5-million centre in south Essex.

Dogs Trust opened the doors to its new Wickford home last week and was greeted by hundreds of people waiting to adopt a new pet.

More than 3,000 people visited last week and 100 dogs have been reserved to move in with new families. The first dog to be rehomed was four-year-old springer spaniel Denver.

He was spotted by the first visitors to the new centre Brian Jewell, who took him to his Norfolk home.

Mr Jewell said: "Walking in and seeing Denver, both my wife and I looked at each other and we just knew we had to take him home."

"He's only been with us for a matter of days, but it's like he's been here forever."

To find more about any of the dogs visit www.dogstrust.org.uk