



■ Hair today... - Amy Wilkin raised money for charity by having all her hair chopped off.

Charity girl donates hair to wig firm

A TEENAGER has donated her hair to a wig company to help patients who have lost their hair during cancer treatment.

Amy Wilkin, who lives with her parents in Tolleshunt D'Arcy, used to have hair so long she could sit on it.

The 14-year-old decided she wanted a dramatic cut, but would use the event as the chance to raise money as well.

She had her hair chopped off at Toni and Guy in Colchester, raising about £300 for cystic fibrosis, a condition which her mum Sarah suffers from.

Flower power of the 1960s

FLOWER power was all the rage when hundreds of visitors flocked to a church over the bank holiday weekend.

A 1960s-themed flower festival was staged at St Lawrence Church, Bradfield, and raised £3,000 towards an extension of the building, which was completed last year.

The three-day event attracted more than 500 visitors, who were wowed by floral displays, pictures and music from the era.

A highlight was on Saturday evening, when 50 pupils from Manningtree High School and Bradfield Primary School participated in a 1960s-themed concert.

Art project for Himalayan kids

A CHARITY set up by a Colchester woman has organised an art competition for youngsters in a remote area of the Himalayas.

Hi-Cap UK hired a porter to hike to mountain schools in Nepal and dish out drawing materials.

The resulting pictures will be sent to Britain to be judged and the winning children will be awarded prizes.

Greenstead mum Freda Casagrande started up Hi-Cap UK several years ago after she visited Nepal and was shocked by poor living conditions there.

Businesses bite back at recession with new fair

80 companies show what they can do for customers at event

by Vanessa Moon
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COLCHESTER firms defied the recession to show they are still open for business at the first Colchester Business Fair.

Organised by the Essex County Standard and sponsored by TBG Learning, the event featured more than 80 businesses showing what they had to offer.

Hundreds of visitors and potential business customers attended the event at Charter Hall, Colchester.

Joanna Johnson, business to business sales adviser for Standard Business, the Essex County Standard's business supplement, said feedback had been positive.

"People said they really enjoyed it and made some valuable contacts," she said.

"There was also a lot of support to continue with the business fair next year."

The business fair, which also saw the annual Jobs Exhibition run alongside it, featured a wide range of businesses from catering, entertainment and education to hospitality, manufacturing and technology.

Business organisations were also represented.

Iain Wicks, chairman of the Essex Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) hailed the event as "excellent".

The small business lobby group had kept a stand at the event and collected 400 signatures of support for its Keep Trade Local campaign.

Mr Wicks said: "This was the first Colchester Business Exhibition and Essex FSB was delighted to be involved with it.

"The exhibition hall was full of businesses wishing to pro-



■ What can we do for you? - Darren Pye, of Alphaprint Colchester, gives away trees to promote a healthy environment, left. Below left, Rick Norell, of Nu Skin, tests an anti-wrinkle product on Wendy Simpson. Below, hundreds of visitors turned up to see what Colchester firms had to offer.

Pictures: NIGEL BROWN (0604-35/47/95)



mote their goods and services, and during the day we estimate around 1,300 people visited the event.

"In addition, we took inquiries from 81 businesses - from as far away as EC2 and

Dagenham, as well as from local firms in Essex and Suffolk.

"We were pleased with this initial event and look forward to supporting future Colchester Business Exhibitions next

year and beyond."

The event also saw firms walk away with prizes on the day.

The winner of the Essex County Standard prize draws was Autism Anglia in North

Station Road, which won conference facilities for a day courtesy of Prested Hall in Kelvedon.

■ Businesses interested in next year's fair should call the events team on 01206 508374.

Vicar's letter prompts association to disband

A COLCHESTER residents' association has decided to disband following complaints about their authority.

The Old Heath Residents' Association was formed in 2003 by Dave Smith and others to represent the views of people living in the area.

A letter in the County Stan-

dard from Old Heath vicar Father Richard Tillbrook has prompted the group's chairman, Mr Smith, and vice-chairman Dean Lloyd to dissolve the group.

The letter said: "This association had no constitution and no official standing."

Mr Smith said: "It has recently been pointed out in a letter to the Essex County Standard that the group has no offi-

cial constitution.

"This, however, has not stopped the association from objecting to proposed developments that could impact on the community, starting from a proposed travellers site in Place Farm, to a concrete-crushing plant on the Middlewick firing ranges.

"We have objected to the Ministry of Defence fencing off a large area of the firing ranges

- which will impact on residents - and have led a campaign against smells coming from the sewage works in Haven Road.

"Old Heath Residents' Association has worked with the authorities to make the community a safer, better place for all residents, and there has been an improvement in the area."

Mr Smith said, despite his efforts and the efforts of those who have worked with him, few

members of the community have helped the association and the workload has fallen on the shoulders of a few people.

He said: "Dean Lloyd is currently not enjoying the best of health and I have a number of business interests that take up much of my time.

"Whenever the need arises though, we will both continue to speak out as individuals for the people of Old Heath."



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