

Bikes seized in traffic blitz

TWO MEN had their off-road motorbikes seized during a police operation in Coventry.

Officers were out in force at the weekend after complaints from residents in the north-east of the city about people mis-using their off-road bikes.

On Saturday two men riding off-road scramblers in the Sutton Stop/Grange Road area of Hawkesbury were stopped by police. Both were riding without insurance and their bikes were seized.

In Wood End a man was arrested for drink-driving. He was also driving while disqualified and had his car seized.

Sergeant Phil Comerford said: "We take all reports of anti-social behaviour very seriously. The anti-social use of vehicles in the north-east of the city has been of ongoing concern to our residents and operations like this help to take those vehicles off the road. We would encourage residents to continue to report their concerns to neighbourhood teams so we can tackle them."

Residents can report anti-social behaviour by calling 0845 113 5000.

LEADING THE WAY IN LIFE SAVING CAMPAIGN



By Cara Simpson
NEWS REPORTER

HUNDREDS of Coventry and Warwickshire people came forward to become organ donors thanks to a life-saving Telegraph campaign.

There was a rise of almost 40 per cent in the number of people signing up to the organ donor register during our Gift of Life campaign.

That equated to almost 1,400 life-savers joining the register during the campaign last May to October last year.

The statistics have just been released by UK Transplant, which monitors numbers on the register.

The 1,388 extra people was a 38.7 per cent increase on the same period for the previous year, which saw 1001 people sign up to donate organs when they die.

The campaign coincided with the staging of the British Transplant Games in Coventry for which hundreds of transplant athletes descended on the city for four days of sport on July 30 to August 2.

And as part of the campaign in the lead up, during and after the event, the Telegraph ran a series of case studies focusing on the plight of people waiting for life-transforming organs, those who received organs, and

the stories of families of donor card carriers who gave the gift of life when they died.

A Gift of Life blog was also set up on the Telegraph's website featuring the diary of a kidney patient as she prepared for her transplant operation.

Nick West, transplant coordinator at the University Hospital, Walsgrave, credits the Telegraph's campaign for the surge in numbers signed up to the register during the period.

He said: "The Telegraph's Gift of Life campaign was a roaring success and that's thanks to everyone at the Telegraph and all the readers for getting on board.

"The increase in the number of people signed up to the Organ Donor Register is fantastic.

"It really helped us to promote the Games and more importantly it raised awareness of the Organ Donor Register, even if people decided they didn't want to sign up."

Lynne Holt, trustee of Transplant Sport UK, the charity which organises the Games, said: "The publicity

around the Games and the Telegraph's campaign was a great success.

"The campaign did a great job in that it raised awareness of the need for more people to sign up, which is what the Games are all about.

"Thanks to everyone involved. It wouldn't have happened without the Coventry Telegraph."

Thousands across the UK are still waiting for their life-saving transplant. To sign up phone 0300 123 23 23, lines are open 24 hours a day, or log onto www.uktransplant.org.uk

SUCCESS: Nick West, transplant coordinator at the University Hospital and (above) the Transplant Games fun run



Free running in Rugby park

A DEMONSTRATION of urban free running is being held in Rugby this month.

The art - made famous during the opening sequence of James Bond film Casino Royale - sees people climbing and jumping over objects as quickly as possible.

Local group the Rugby Traceurs and professional free runners Prodigal Theatre Urban Playground Team are hosting the event at Caldecott Park on Sunday, April 25, from 12pm to 6pm.

Free running, also known as parkour, originally developed in France.

Rugby Borough Council is looking to install a parkour playground in Addison Road park, New Bilton, later this year.

For details email john.cowley@rugby.gov.uk

Fair at city park

A FUNFAIR will be held at Coventry's Memorial Park to raise cash for orphans on behalf of Islamic relief.

Supported by Coventry City Council, the event on May 1 will see a number of rides erected in the park as well as a 5-a-side football tournament and a sponsored mile walk. Visit www.bigfundraisingfair.co.uk for more information.

Man, 54, faces child sex charges

A 54-YEAR-OLD man has gone on trial accused of raping a girl while she was drunk.

Steven Tutt, of The Model Village, Long Itchington, is alleged to have instigated a relationship with his victim when she was 12 years old in 2007.

He has been charged with two counts of rape, six counts of sexual activity with a child and causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

At Coventry Crown Court yesterday jurors watched video footage of the girl, now aged 14,

who elaborated on her diary account in which she described the last two years as being a "rough time." She said: "He offered me a drink. I was getting really really light-headed...it went black.

The case continues.