

Premier improvement for football pitch

A SOUTH Norfolk leisure centre has received a premier improvement after the resurfacing of its artificial football pitch.

The final piece of turf at Wymondham Leisure Centre was rolled out last week, which is the same state-of-the-art surface as some Premiership football clubs.

The 3G artificial grass cost South Norfolk Council £17,000

and will aim to last at least 15 years. Teams such as Arsenal, Bolton Wanderers and Blackburn Rovers use the same surface at their training grounds.

Michelle Monck, South Norfolk Council's cabinet member for leisure, said: "This is a brilliant facility for the people of Wymondham and surrounding areas, and children and local clubs will

really benefit as they can use the flood-lit pitch in the evenings and after school." "By replacing our old pitch with this new state-of-the-art surface we hope to attract more people to the centre."

A special reopening football tournament is planned for the New Year, which will raise funds for East Anglia's Children's Hospices.



BROAD NORFOLK DESIGNS: Lucy Catto's designs, based on unique local dialect.

Business not just old squat

HOLD yew hard — the Norfolk dialect is inspiring a new Hethersett-based business venture.

Two years ago while idly watching a ladybird on the windowsill, scientist Lucy Catto came up with the idea for a clothing and gift company based on the Norfolk Dialect. Motherhood and a move back to her home county of Norfolk prompted her to take the plunge and set up Broad Norfolk Designs.

Her designs celebrate some of the unique, quirky and downright bizarre words that have existed in our local dialect for hundreds of years. Her flagship designs are based on perhaps the most endearing Norfolk word, Bishy Barney Bee, otherwise

known as a ladybird. Lucy says "I've been a member of the organisation Friends of Norfolk Dialect (FOND) for a number of years and wholeheartedly support their aims of conserving and recording Norfolk's linguistic and cultural heritage. Our rich local dialect is something to be celebrated"

Given the Norfolk theme of her business, Lucy is keen to support the local economy — all of the design artwork is produced in house and is then brought to life on clothing and ceramics by local companies.

Owing to popular demand Broad Norfolk Designs has recently expanded its design range to include "Mardle" (meaning gossip), "On the huh" (meaning slanted or not quite straight) and "Hold yew hard!"

(meaning hang on a minute). Her products have proved very popular with Norfolk ex-pats as far afield as Australia and New Zealand who want a small reminder of home.

"The range of clothing, mugs and plates make perfect Christmas gifts for anyone who has a fondness for our fine county. If you love our dialect, you'll love our designs!" said Lucy.

Broad Norfolk Designs is based in Hethersett and operates mainly via its online shop at www.broadnorfolkdesigns.co.uk but Lucy's products are also for sale at The Jade Tree on Elm Hill in Norwich and at Church Farm Shop, Norwich Road, Hethersett. They will also be available at the Forum Craft Fair in Norwich from tomorrow until Sunday.

Quiz to improve road safety knowledge

BEING safe on local roads at Christmas is just one of the aims of a festive quiz.

Hethersett and the Meltons Road Safety Committee have devised a 50-question puzzler based on the Highway Code 2007 edition. It is aimed to improve knowledge of road safety issues as well as being entertaining.

There will be prizes for adults and under-16s and the quiz is designed for all the family. Copies are available from Hethersett Library, Hethersett Post Office, Bunches and Munches or on the village website at www.hethersett.org.uk

The quiz also includes a map of Hethersett for people to shade in the 20mph speed limits.

Completed forms should be handed in to Hethersett Library by the closing date of January 11.

Meanwhile the proposed community speed watch scheme in Hethersett has moved a step closer with the training of a volunteer group who will be out around the village in the coming weeks.

Hethersett parish clerk Ian Weetman said: "The initiative is in place to reduce speeding in the village and make it a safer place for everyone."

The group is still looking for additional volunteers and Mr Weetman can be contacted on 01603 810915.

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