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A Merry Christmas!

To all our readers
and advertisers



A frog's life

YOUNGSTERS from
Hethersett Junior School
wanted to learn about
the importance of
rainforests — so they
enlisted the help of a
giant glass fibre frog,
left.

The frog was an
important part of a green
day project at the school.

**FULL
STORY —
page 4**



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'WE NEED A LINK ROAD'

By **IAN CLARKE**
ian.clarke@archant.co.uk

ATTLEBOROUGH must have a
new link road before thousands
of new homes are built in the
town.

That is the demand from local
councillors who are eager for the
town's infrastructure to be improved
ahead of huge expansion plans.

Attleborough is in line to get 4000
extra homes and 2000 new jobs
up to 2026 as part of a new blueprint

Fears town will
be 'clogged' by
homebuilders

for Breckland.

The town has been seen as "a
sustainable location for major growth"
because it is on the A11, on the
Norwich-Ely railway line and with a
"relative lack of environmental
constraints."

No final decisions have been made
yet about where in Attleborough the
new homes will be but it is thought a
lot of them will be to the south of the
town.

During Breckland's full council
meeting, local member Peter Francis
said: "The link road is an essential part
of getting construction traffic south of
the railway without clogging up the
whole town. I would be personally very
concerned about the construction of
houses."

Turn to Page 4

Wills and Inheritance

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InBrief

A140 crash

TWO people had to be cut out of a van after it left the road and went into a hedge. The crash happened on the A140 northbound at Thelveton, shortly before 10am on Tuesday. Two fire crews from Diss were at the scene for about 40 minutes and had to use hydraulic rescue equipment to cut out two people. One person, believed to have suffered minor injuries, was taken to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital as a precaution.

Speed watch

FAMILIES in Attleborough are joining the battle to clamp down on speeders. A neighbourhood policing team priority-setting meeting identified fears over dangerous driving in the area and residents decided to set up a community speed watch scheme.

• To contact Attleborough NPT call 0845 4564567 or e-mail snattleborough@norfolk.pnn.police.uk.

Snow closing us!

WHILE schools around the county were closing because of the snow, Rocklands Primary School remained open for the last day of term. Pupils and staff all managed to ensure that the end-of-term nativity and carol concert at St Peter's Church in Rocklands could go ahead as planned.

Children weave natural materials into festive church sculptures

NORFOLK Sculptress Rachael Long and children from Little Melton and Hethersett have combined to make it a memorable Christmas at Little Melton Parish Church. Rachael, from Wreningham, and the youngsters have produced a tableau of animals and figures as part of a Christmas art project with a festive message. A donkey, sheep, a camel and a cockerel have been put together using natural materials such as brambles, twigs, branches, seeds, nuts and shells often within a metal framework. Having sculptures in All Saints Church is becoming something of a tradition. Two

years ago Rachael Long and local children combined for a series of artistic angels. Last year fellow sculptress Jessica Perry was responsible for the display. This year church member Dr Fiona Doonan suggested using natural materials and church members began collecting. Rachael Long heard about the idea and offered her help. She made the framework for the animals which were then decorated in schools and nurseries by the children and staff. The result is a captivating church landscape that enforces the Christmas message. Exhibits include "The Birth of Jesus" by Fiona

and Becky Doonan, a cockerel made by Little Melton pre-school nursery, a donkey made by children from Hethersett Junior School, a sheep by children from Little Melton Primary School and a camel by students from Hethersett High School. The cost of the display has been met by Little Melton Parochial Parish Council and the project was launched at a coffee morning in the church. Many of the exhibits will remain on display in the church over the Christmas period. It is also likely that some will find their way to Hethersett Library.



SCULPTURE: Little Melton churchwarden Margaret Waller with the sheep made by sculptress Rachael Long and Little Melton Primary School. Picture: PETER STEWARD

Wildlife fears prompt revised bid for homes

CONTENTIOUS plans for an affordable housing development on a former nature reserve in Wymondham have been revised in a bid to overcome objections.

Two separate applications were submitted in August by Broadland Housing Association and South Norfolk Council to build a total of 30 flats and houses on land next to the new Windmill Surgery.

The Norwich-based housing

association has now altered its proposals for 12 affordable flats between Friarscroft Lane and Old London Road in response to wildlife and flood risk concerns.

South Norfolk Council, which had applied for outline permission for 18 dwellings has also withdrawn its original plans, but has not yet submitted a revised scheme.

The previous proposals had

prompted opposition from the Wymondham Nature Group, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, and the Environment Agency over concerns about flooding on the area near the River Tiffey and the impact on local flora and fauna.

The area was originally part of the Toll's Meadow nature reserve before the construction of the B1172 and is still used by bats, owls and water voles, say local

conservationists.

Jonathon Green, agent for the Broadland Housing Association scheme, said the design of the proposed flats had not changed, but new hydrology and ecology reports aimed to demonstrate that the development would "enhance" and "not unacceptably harm" the conservation area.

Residents have until the end of the month to air their views.

Mercury

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Man's suspended sentence

A MAN who caused trouble at a pub when his drink was cleared away while he was on the dance floor was last week given a nine-month suspended jail sentence.

James Simpson, 34, objected when he claimed staff had cleared away his drink at the Waterfront pub, in Diss, and then tried leaning over the bar to help himself to a drink, Norwich Crown Court heard.

Robert Warner, prosecuting, said that door staff ejected him from the pub and then other people became involved in fighting which broke out.

Simpson also came back in the

pub despite being ejected by door staff and was involved in some pushing and shoving.

The court heard Simpson had previous convictions, including being jailed for four years in 1999 for manslaughter.

Simpson, of Ladbrook Close, Diss, admitted affray and was given a nine-month jail sentence suspended for a year and ordered to do 100 hours of unpaid work.

Philip Farr, in mitigation, said: "He had too much to drink and behaved inappropriately. His ejection became a catalyst for a more serious affray."

Charlie's Olympic 'bid'

A YOUNGSTER celebrating his fifth birthday is in line to take part in the 2012 London Olympics.

Little Charlie Aldous was born in December 20, 2004 when he was entered in a competition to be involved in the closing ceremony.

The Roydon Primary School pupil, who turned five on Sunday, is one of around 700 children across the country to be chosen to be involved in the London Games because of the date of his birth.

His mum, Jane Aldous, said: "When he was born, London had not got the Olympics and were still bidding, but on the 20th of the 12th

2004 they said any child born on this day, would be involved in the games, if London was successful in the bid."

Every year Charlie, who celebrated at the weekend with a disco, receives a birthday card from the London Olympic team and Sebastian Coe, although this year's was yet to arrive on Sunday.

Mrs Aldous, 29, a slimming world consultant who lives with her husband and other son on Louie's Lane in Diss, added: "He was quite excited to be chosen but I don't think he realises how much of a big deal it is."

Garden lights bring festive cheer

THERE are certain traditions in a village that make Christmas a really special time of year for all. Every Christmas for the past 15 years Tony and Margaret Dunton of Hethersett have got lit up for the festive season — and all in a good cause.

For the couple's house in Firs Road is awash with Christmas lights, both inside and out. Hundreds of people each year visit the highly colourful display of elves, Santas, reindeers, lights and a garage nativity scene. Over the years Tony and Margaret have raised thousands of pounds for

local charities through donations. This year money raised will go to the East Anglian Air Ambulance and the local doctors' surgery. Last year they raised over £600.

Tony and Margaret admit that they are mad about Christmas.

That's why Tony spends a week putting the display together and making subtle changes to previous years. Taking them down is a much easier task, taking only a couple of hours.

The switch-on takes place after dark and will continue until he first week of January.



CHARITY: Tony Dunton at his home with the annual festive light show. Picture: PETER STEWARD



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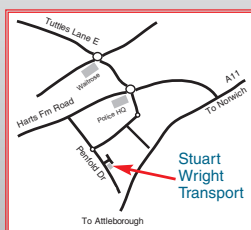
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GREEN DAY: When youngsters from Hethersett Junior School wanted to learn about the importance of rainforests they enlisted the help of a giant glass fibre frog. The frog was an important part of a green day project at the school organised by the Eco Club. This featured a number of activities aimed at enhancing pupils' knowledge of ecology and rainforests in particular. The giant Red Eyed Tree Frog was purchased from Wild in Art, a leading producer of giant animals



of all shapes and sizes. It was similar to models used in the national Prince's Rainforests Project design-a-frog competition. Hethersett didn't take part in that but decided their own model

REDDIT: Hethersett youngsters and their giant frog.

was a difficult surface to draw on for the children," said art teacher Marian Watt. The project was co-ordinated by year six teacher Sammia El-Labany: "It provides us with a long-term legacy and reminder of our school's involvement in the rain forest project," she said. Children from all the school's year groups were involved and now the frog is on public view in Hethersett Library until after Christmas.

would help to underline the eco message. So about 15 pupils set about drawing colourful eco messages and pictures of endangered species on the frog. "It took some doing as it

Fears over traffic snarl-ups in town

Continued from Page 1

"To have the town clogged up with construction traffic would be a nightmare."

He called for guarantees that the link road — which will be paid for by developers of the new homes — would be provided as part of the planning agreement.

Phil Daines, Breckland's development services manager, agreed it was essential.

"The delivery of that number of

What do you think?

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Prospect House, Rouen Road,
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dma.letters@archant.co.uk

houses will require the provision of a link road. It will also require additional work in relation to drainage."

He said the Attleborough Action Plan would be able to control developments

in the town and there would have to be a transport study.

Keith Martin, who is also an Attleborough councillor, said the potential for congestion was "very concerning" and said the link road had to be tied in to the planning permission for the new homes.

Breckland has also pledged to ensure waste water treatment, energy supply and the lack of leisure facilities and green infrastructure would all be addressed as part of the town's expansion.

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