

Recovery group launch

By Rebecca Gough

rebecca.gough@archant.co.uk

A new substance misuse group will be launched in Diss in January thanks to almost £2,000 of funding from the local community.

Jackie Talbot raised £1,080 after her son Michael Talbot died of an overdose four years ago, while Diss Rotary Club has contributed an additional £500.

The money will pay for a new SMART Recovery group, a science-

based addiction support service.

Mrs Talbot launched an appeal to open a new drug and alcohol support centre after Michael, 26, a talented amateur boxer and father-of-two, was found dead at his parent's home.

"We all have dreams in life and the day I found my son dead in his room I said I would do all I could to raise awareness and have help here in Diss so people didn't have to travel to Ipswich and Bury," she said.

Anyone with drug or alcohol problems is welcome at the new group, which will be provided by the

Matthew Project.

Clive Sinfield, Diss Rotary community service chair, added that the group had been happy to help with the funding.

"The Rotary Club members are concerned about the adverse effects that drugs and alcohol are having on our otherwise quiet and peaceful market town.

"Rotarians are, therefore, only too delighted to help get this initiative off the ground in the hope that positive outcomes will benefit the whole of our community," he said.

The group will meet at the United Reformed church in Diss at 2pm on Tuesdays starting on January 7.

To find out more, contact Naomi Bales on 07733 296526, or email naomi.bales@matthewproject.org

Mrs Talbot is also appealing for anyone who may have an empty shop they could offer rent-free for second-hand furniture, where profits would be ploughed back into the SMART group.

Anyone who can help should contact Mercury editor Rebecca Gough on 01379 651153.



SUPPORT: Clive Sinfield, Diss Rotary Club community service chair, Nicola Lambert, recovery manager for the south with Norfolk Recovery partnership, Jackie Talbot, and Elaine Longhurst, senior support manager at Genesis Housing.

Production firm heads back to school to teach keen students

Pupils at Norwich School have been learning the art of film-making from an award-winning TV production company.

The school has been working with Eye for Business, part of Eye Film and Television, to teach members of Aspect, the school's film club, how to shoot, edit and produce their own films. They produced four films, including show reels from the school's production of Much Ado About Nothing, charity fashion show, gala night at the Theatre Royal and a jazz night at Epic Studios.

Norwich school headmaster Steffan Griffiths said: "Eye were terrific with our pupils. They encouraged them to pick up new skills and be ambitious with their targets. We are delighted with the professional standard of the films they produced."

The school has used the pupils' material for eight films which illustrate what life is like at the school, in another collaborative project with Eye for Business.

Aspect club president Harold Thalange said: "Working with Eye was an exciting opportunity to assist the school in filming a large number of events alongside professional filmmakers."

Charlie Gauvain, Eye managing director, said the school and pupils had embraced the opportunity to learn.

Improvements at pre-school

A pre-school has improved its rating following a visit by Ofsted.

Stepping Stones Pre-school operates out of Catholic Hall Parish Church in Wymondham, and has 30 children on the roll.

Its latest visit from inspectors revealed it had improved from "satisfactory" in 2009 to "good" this year.

The report said: "Teaching is good as children are given time to work at their own pace and complete activities to their own level of understanding, as staff sit with them, observe, do not take over or intervene, and allow them to solve things for themselves."

Inspector Debbie Kerry praised the pre-school's support for children's interaction, language and communication skills.

She added that the manager and staff team were "highly committed and motivated".

She said that the Stepping Stones Pre-school was not yet outstanding because opportunities to extend children's use of their home language were not always fully maximised.

SALE NOW ON

Delivery available before Christmas!



800 Pocket Sprung Divan Set includes 2 FREE Drawers

4'6 - £449 5'0 - £489



4'6 1000 Pocket Sprung Divan Set with 4 DRAWERS

3'0 - £319 4'6 - £399
5'0 - £499 6'0 - £649



Orthopaedic Divan Bed also available with storage

3'0 - £189 4'6 - £219
5'0 - £279 6'0 - £399



Vacuum Packed Mattress

Huge stocks of mattresses available to take away today!



Cambridge Metal Bedstead more bedstead choices in store

4'6 - £169 5'0 - £219



Solid Oak Bedstead more bedstead choices in store

4'6 - £269 5'0 - £299



Faux Leather Bedstead more bedstead choices in store

4'6 - £99 5'0 - £129

www.soundsleepbeds.co.uk

Over 100 beds on display in store



95% of our mattresses are National Bed Federation approved

SOUND SLEEP BED WAREHOUSE

MILE ROAD - WINFARTHING - IP22 2EZ - 01953 861177

Monday - Friday 9:00 - 5:00 Saturday 10:00 - 4:00 Sunday 10:00 - 1:00

Find us on the B1077 between Diss & Attleborough - Look for our bright yellow signs

Free Local Delivery - Credit Cards Accepted - Old Bed Disposal Service