

Tributes to former student

STAFF at a school in Bury St Edmunds have paid tribute to the memory of a former student who died after having a heart attack.

Denise Jackson, 20, of Bury Park Drive, Bury St Edmunds, was taken by ambulance to the West Suffolk Hospital from the Alvington House Dental Surgery where she worked at 8.45am on Tuesday last week.

Denise, who was known to suffer from a heart condition, had attended King Edward VI High School from the age of 13, and is fondly remembered.

Her former head of year, Jane Tyers, said Denise's death was a shock to all the staff. "She was a quiet, conscientious student," she said.

"Our thoughts are with her family. We want to send a sympathetic and supportive message."

After taking her GCSEs Denise started A-levels before taking a health and social care course. Her sister Helen is a sixth form student at the school.

Head of sixth form Diane McGeeever said: "Denise was a likeable girl and I know she will be much missed. She was a nice, kind, caring person and for her to die at such a young age is tragic."

Her family have been too upset to talk about Denise's death.

The funeral was held yesterday at Nowton Church.

Man fell in silo

A FARM worker who fell from a ladder and broke his leg while cleaning a grain silo was rescued by fire crews.

The man was working in the silo at a farm in Bradfield Combust when he fell a short distance and landed awkwardly on his left leg.

Fire crews from Bury had to climb down into the 15ft silo to give first aid to the worker before cutting through the side of the silo to get him out.

Assistant Divisional Officer at Bury Carl Francis said: "The worker was in quite good cheer considering the pain he must have been in."

Honours for Stuart

STUART Alderton, of Westley Road, Bury, a former pupil at Culford School, has been awarded BA honours and Master of Natural Science honours degrees at Cambridge University. He now joins a London based managment consultancy.

Bury decides not to go for city status

BURY St Edmunds has decided not to go for city status.

Five councillors backed the proposal to apply for city status at a meeting of St Edmundsbury Borough Council on Tuesday.

Members heard consultation showed about two thirds of St Edmundsbury residents were against the proposal.

Council leader Mike Brundle said he would vote against the proposal to apply for city status because people felt Bury becoming a city could attract the same negative problems associated with large cities.

Having city status could prove too much of an attraction to tourists and Bury could end up overrun with visitors.

But Mike Ames (Ind, Abbeygate) said that having city status would enhance Bury's potential, attract inward investment and make the town 'the place to be'.

Mark Ereira (Lab, Risbygate) said Bury was a historic market town and should remain as such. "People like the concept of calling it a town and do not feel the change is one which should be endorsed," he said.

Registers for people to mark their comments about city status for Bury St Edmunds were placed at the council's offices in Bury and Haverhill, four libraries and leisure centre in Bury and Haverhill.

Of the 1,444 responses, 720 were against applying for city status and 424 were in favour. Eighty-six parishes were offered a register and 15 took up the offer. The Bury St Edmunds Society and four parish councils wrote in favour of the bid, two parish councils wrote against it.

Shell claim is settled

A DAVID and Goliath battle between a Bury St Edmunds businessman and oil giant Shell has ended in stalemate after both sides agreed an out-of-court settlement.

John Donovan, 52, was suing Shell claiming the company stole his ideas and turned them into its successful Smart Card loyalty scheme.

Shell denied the allegation and made a counter claim against Mr Donovan, alleging his company, Don Marketing, breached a confidentiality agreement.

On Tuesday, after days of battling it out in the High Court, both sides agreed to the action being dismissed.

A joint statement issued afterwards said Mr Donovan had abandoned his claim against Shell along with related libel proceedings.

"He acknowledged that these claims are without foundation and should not have been brought," it said.

The statement added that Mr Donovan, who has lived in Bradfield Combust for 12 years, had withdrawn all allegations of impropriety against Shell or against its employees in connection with the proceedings and had agreed not to repeat them in any manner.

Shell said it acknowledged that the proceedings were brought in good faith and it also withdrew all allegations of impropriety.

Web wonder

SOUTH Lee School in Bury has been named as an outstanding example of good practice in web publishing in the Becta/The Guardian UK School and College Web Site Awards.

The school was yesterday presented with a desktop computer valued at £1,000.

No promise to pull down the Crown Street gates

by Nicola Brown

CONSERVATIVES in St Edmundsbury, who pledged to take down the Crown Street Gateways if that was what the people wanted, now say there is no promise they will be removed.

Speaking at a borough council meeting on Tuesday, Cllr John Wayman (Con, Cavendish), chairman of the council's transport and works committee, said that he could not say whether funds would be available to take them down.

He said there were also traffic management implications to consider, bearing in mind the gates also had traffic signs mounted on them, and that 'the sculptor might be offended if they were removed'.

Before May's local government elections, all major parties wrote to the Bury Free Press setting out their views on the gateways, which are the threshold to Bury St Edmunds' Historic Core Zone, amongst other issues.

The Conservative's contribution read: "The Conservative group's view regarding the gates on Crown Street is to demolish these eyesores if the people wish us to do so."

Yesterday council leader Mike Brundle (Cons, Westgate) told the Bury Free Press that these had been his personal views and that members would be given a free vote when the matter came to committee, perhaps in September.

"As far as I am concerned, a lot of my members and myself thought they should come down and that was



Above: This story which was published in the Bury Free Press in April in which the Tories said they would pull down the Crown Street gates if that was what the public wanted. Above left: Tory leader Cllr Mike Brundle says it was his opinion



the majority view of the group at that time.

"It will be up to all 44 members of the council to make the decision and my personal decision will be to look at replacing them with something less obtrusive."

Labour leader Ray Nowak (Lab, Sextons) said: "I think this is another example of mouth not being engaged with the brain. He has a tendency to spout off and think about it afterwards."

"Certainly, he put in the Bury Free Press that he wants to see the gates taken down and, as he was leader of the group, you can understand that is why the electorate felt that was what was going to happen."

"His opinion is still that he considers the gates ugly but I support Mike Brundle in as much as he said maybe the answer is to modify them slightly."

At Tuesday's meeting, Cllr Brundle said the gates were grotesque, in his opinion, but denied taking them down was ever in the Conservatives' manifesto.

"We have other members representing people from Haverhill to Coney Weston and their views have to be taken into account too," he said.

The gates have produced a huge postbag over the weeks at the Bury Free Press. Most of the letters have condemned the gates.



David Ale ...surprised at his win

David is top young musician

THE winner of this year's West Suffolk Young Musician of the Year award has said he was amazed to be presented with the top prize because he thought he had made mistakes.

Cellist David Ale, 17, of Queens Road, Bury St Edmunds, scooped the trophy on Monday but said he came off stage disappointed because he thought he could have done better

"I was a bit gutted because I know I have played better in the past," he said. "When they announced that I had won I couldn't believe it."

He thanked his musical family for their encouragement and his teacher for the last 10 years, Chris Foreman. Victory brought him two trophies, one to keep and one to return, as well as a £10 token from sponsors Balaams music shop.

The event was held at the Theatre Royal in Bury, and organiser Beryl Lucas, of the West Suffolk Schools' Music Association, said all the finalists played extremely well.

David has just finished his A-levels at King Edward VI High School and is now celebrating with his friends in Mallorca.

The other finalists were: Craig Smitherman, trombone; Sally Beck, piano; Sally Beck, flute; Clare Presland, voice; Michelle Hixson, clarinet.

Senior planning officer Peter Fuller said that although the newts played a big part, they were not the only reason that planning permission was denied.

"It was also felt that the type of houses being suggested would not fit in with the rest of the development and concerns were also raised about access."

Newts are safe after new houses are turned down

PLANNING permission for three more homes on the Saxon Gate estate in Bury St Edmunds has been refused because they would have affected land set aside for endangered great crested newts.

Conservation officer for English Nature Nick Sibbett welcomed the news. "This is great for the newts," he said. "They are very rare

throughout Europe. We hold the vast majority of the world's population here and if we can't conserve them nobody can."

Mr Sibbett explained that six years ago there were great crested newts all over the site, and when planning permission was granted to Redrow Homes for the Saxon Gate development a condition was made

that part of the land was set aside for them. The newts were then rounded up and released on to their reserve.

"The two recent planning applications from Redrow Homes were both on part of the land that was reserved for the newts," he said. "If it had gone ahead it would have made the previous good work a farce."

GOLF

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