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Sunday, 29 January, 2017

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FOOTBALL: Goalkeeper retires at age of 21

8.54am - 22nd December 2016

COLCHESTER United goalkeeper James Bransgrove, a former student of Davenant Foundation School, has retired from professional football at the age of 21 to pursue a business career.
After three-and-a-half years with Colchester - which included loan spells at several non-league clubs - James says he has taken the decision to hang up his gloves "after much thought and consideration".
He added: "I can look back on my three-and-a-half years at Colchester United and be extremely proud of what I have achieved considering five years ago I was playing Sunday league football with my friends as a centre half."
James was a member of the treble-winning youth team, was called up into the Scotland U21 squad and made his professional debut in the last game of last season.

TRIATHLON: Athlete gets leisure centre sponsorship

3.49pm - 5th December 2016

TRIATHLETE Ali Trauttmansdorff, 45, is being sponsored by Everyone Active at Loughton Leisure Centre as part of its Sporting Champions scheme.
The Traps Hill centre, operated in partnership with Epping Forest District Council, is providing Ali with free access to its facilities.
Ali qualified to represent Team GB at the World Triathlon Championship in Chicago, America, in 2015.

SWIMMING: Student set to represent GB at Deaflympics

11.09am - 18th November 2016

A YEAR 13 student at West Hatch High School has been nominated to represent Great Britain in the Deaflympics 2017.
Kieran Holdbrook is awaiting confirmation of his inclusion in the squad for Turkey next year after competing in a GB selection and training weekend at the London Aquatic Centre.
Kieran, who swims in the 1,500m front crawl, is coming to the end of his two-year BTEC Sports course at the High Road school.
Kieran said: "I am very excited at the opportunity to represent Great Britain yet again and am looking forward to visiting Turkey for the first time to compete."
"My main goal is to reach the finals."
The school's Head of PE, Coralie Reid, said: "We are so proud of Kieran's achievements: he is extremely unassuming both with his swimming and his attainment on the BTEC Sport course. "He is excelling on the course and is on track to reach a Distinction grade."
She added: "The other four boys on the BTEC course are very supportive of Kieran's achievements: they are an enthusiastic group who are coming to the end of their two-year qualification."
Kieran is looking to go to university to study Physical Education with the ambition of becoming a PE teacher.
In August last year Kieran competed in the World Deaf Swimming Championships in Texas where he broke the British U16 200m Butterfly record, came fourth in the relay and seventh in the 1,500m.
In 2014, Kieran represented Great Britain in the European Deaf Swimming Championships in Russia.

HOCKEY: Chigwell School U18 girls retain county title

7.48am - 12th November 2016

Chigwell Ladies Under-18s hold both the Essex Hockey indoor and outdoor titles after their victory in the indoor competition, a feat never accomplished before.

Alice Melvin, an England Under-17 player, was in fine form as the girls went throughout the day undefeated.

They now represent the county at the East of England regional stage at St Albans.

Coach Miranda Baldwin said: "This is a fantastic achievement for the girls and I am so proud of them.

"To win both county tournaments this season is an outstanding accomplishment and a true credit to the whole squad's hard work and commitment throughout the season."

NETBALL: Debden Park High School secures sponsorship

3.53pm - 1st November 2016

DEBDEN Park High School netball teams have secured a sponsorship deal for the second successive year thanks to success in the West Essex Netball Leagues.

As the students have moved up an academic year the squad has grown to have two teams of Year 10 and Year 11 girls.

Both teams won their leagues last year and both teams are so far undefeated in the league this year.

Head of PE Jen Perry said: "As always I am proud of our students, they put so much hard work into training and matches, compete on Saturdays, and help coach the younger students.

"Having the sponsor and brand new kit certainly helps us maintain their professional attitude towards representing the school, and is motivating for the younger years."

Donna Barker, director of North Weald-based building and civil engineering contractors Gillard & Sons Ltd, said: "Gillard's are both pleased and extremely proud to sponsor the under-16 netball teams again this year.

"The girls commitment to the game, and of course their training, is incredible and we wish them all the very best with their forthcoming games and tournaments."

So far the Debden Park teams have beaten Davenant Foundation School, Braeside School, West Hatch High School and King Harold Academy and are hoping again to take the District League title which will put them in the play-offs against Harlow schools.

HALF-MARATHON: Chigwell School team in Royal Parks event

8.53pm - 17th October 2016

THE Chigwell School community again came together to run, walk and stagger for charity when almost 100 Old Chigwellians, parents and staff ran the Royal Parks Foundation Half Marathon on Sunday.

The 13.1-mile course took them through the heart of the capital as the route showcased the iconic sights of London through four Royal Parks (Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park) and past some of the capital's most historic landmarks including Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards Parade and the Royal Albert Hall.

With 'Chigwell School' emblazoned across their chests team members donned their trainers again to raise much-needed funds and awareness for Cancer Research UK. Cancer Research UK chief executive Sir Harpal Kumar said: "My huge thanks to all the alumni, staff, parents and children at Chigwell School for the amazing support and participation at the Royal Parks Half Marathon.

"To see so many running, supporting and raising awareness of our cause was hugely impressive.

"Chigwell is a role model for the sort of impact that a school community can have in society.

"Given that one in two of us will be diagnosed with cancer in our lifetimes, this support is critical to us. You should all be enormously proud of your efforts, which is helping us to beat cancer sooner.

"We look forward to seeing you all at next year's event."

Gill Punt, who is married to Chigwell School headmaster Michael Punt and who organised the team effort, said: "It was a wonderful day and showed Chigwell at its best!

"We all came together to raise funds and awareness for a very worthy cause and managed to have fun at the same time.

"We are still collecting the donations but the total will join our running total of £132,000 from the last two Royal Parks Half Marathons."

CROSS COUNTRY: Success for Debden Park runners

6.30pm - 11th October 2016

SEVERAL Debden Park High School students have qualified for the county cross country championships after success at the West Essex District Cross Country trials.

Head of PE Jen Perry said: "As always I am very proud of our students. It was a tough unknown course and a cold morning.

"We had students running for the very first time and we had students place at county.

"We look forward to supporting them in the next round."

SCHOOL SPORTS: School selects new Sports Leaders

6.27pm - 11th October 2016

DEBDEN Park High School has selected its new sports leaders for the year - 14 boys and 14 girls.

The programme has been a success for a number of years and provides competitions and organised sport and festivals for primary and secondary students.

Already this term the sports leaders have organised and run a disability primary event and officiated a KS1 football tournament for more than 200 primary children.

More than 50 students applied for the position of sports leader, and were selected on their application forms and dedication to school and club sport.

School sports co-ordinator Nick Denham said: "Competition for places was extremely high and the quality of applications very strong.

"The new sports leaders have taken to their duties with ease and have already impressed."

The next events for the sports leaders are cross country for primary schools, tag rugby and more projectability events.

ATHLETICS: School's fifth World Marathon Day success

6.25pm - 11th October 2016

THIRTY students from Debden Park High School, Loughton, competed in the West Essex District World Marathon Day at Lea Valley Athletics Centre. Students, running as a relay team, had to complete a marathon of 26.2 miles. Students from Year 7 and Year 8 ran the marathon in 2 hours 8 minutes. It was the fifth time that the school has won the competition, and this was their third successive win. PE teacher and school sports co-ordinator Nicholas Denham said: "The PE team are extremely proud of the students as always. "The event is the toughest event we have, and involves a great deal of stamina and speed and I am always amazed at the team work shown by the students."

CROSS COUNTRY: Success for West Hatch

12.30pm - 11th October 2016

MORE than 40 pupils from Years 7-11 at West Hatch High School took part in the annual West Essex & Harlow District cross-Country Competition at Burnt Mill Academy, Harlow. With more than ten schools each race featured more than 70 runners. The course combined rugged terrain with undulating hills albeit in perfect autumn conditions. Outstanding performances were recorded by Year 11 runner Rahul Parmer who placed an impressive ninth as he continues to grow into a fine distance runner. In the junior event (Years 8-9), Olivia Roberts (Year 9) and Ryan Davis placed seventh and fifth respectively earning their places in the district squad. Most notably it was the Year 7 girls who flew the flag for West Hatch winning the team event by an impressive 48 places. Stand-out team performers were Eva Magill who was West Hatch's best placed finisher of the day in second place and Sienna Tippet (14th). Girls' team managers Miss Hiscott and trainee teacher Miss Huggins said were delighted with the performance which followed on from last week's National Girls Sport Week. They highlighted the "grit, determination and overall talent" shown throughout the day. Those who placed in the top ten of events will be put forward to make up the West Essex District Squad.

SCHOOL SPORTS: Student in UK Sport scheme

9.33am - 2nd October 2016

YEAR 10 West Hatch High School student Danny Plunger has taken part in a series of rigorous physical fitness tests as part of UK Sport's #DiscoverYourGold campaign. The scheme, the biggest multi-sport talent identification campaign in British history, registered 4,000 applications for 1,000 places across the country, targeting 15 to 24-year-olds to be fast-tracked into the world of high performance sport. Danny's parents registered his details that included his height, weight and sporting interests that include football, rugby and athletics. The successful application meant that Danny was one of about 20 young athletes selected for Phase 1 of the #DiscoverYourPower strand of the programme that targets untapped future talent in Track Cycling, Skeleton Bob and Canoeing. Danny, who was the youngest selected athlete, underwent a variety of tests for power and speed over three hours, with UK Sports Scientist monitoring his data. Watching on, West Hatch PE teacher Aaron D'Silva said: "I am so pleased I was made aware of Danny's success and got to see it first-hand. "To even get to this stage of a programme is a great experience for Danny and it is excellent to see him attempt to harness his huge sporting talent and physical attributes. "I wish him all the best for the future and who knows what his future holds. Lizzie Yarnold was part of a similar Talent ID scheme in 2008 and now has Olympic gold medal to her name." Danny will find out if he has made it to Phase 2 in late November once tests have been analysed.

SCHOOL SPORTS: Netball and football festival

3.05pm - 23rd September 2016

CHIGWELL School hosted the annual Under-11 primary schools' netball and football festivals with Chigwell's A team victorious in the netball tournament. The netball festival involved 16 schools from the local area with all teams enjoying six matches in the morning. PE teacher Sheila Bint, who ran the festival, said: "The festival gave the girls a wonderful opportunity to get a morning of intensive play at the very start of the season, hopefully creating high levels of enthusiasm for the girls, their coaches and the spectators for the coming season." The Under-11 football festival featured 21 teams from local primary schools. Teams were placed in three pools of seven teams and played six friendly matches against the other schools in their group. Chigwell School's Head of Football Andrew Bruce, who organized the festival, said: "The quality of football played was excellent and it was great to see all the players expressing themselves in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. "A big thank you to all the schools that took part and everyone who worked hard behind the scenes to make the event such a success."

CRICKET: Epping Foresters batsman hits six sixes in a over

5.10pm - 21st August 2016

EPPING Foresters Cricket Club opening batsman Andrew French hit six sixes in an over in a recent record-breaking 40-over club match. Andrew, 25, smashed 193 from 110 balls in the local derby friendly match when Epping Foresters hosted Epping Cricket Club at Mill Plain last Sunday. After sharing in an opening partnership of 165 with his father, Peter - of which Peter made just 38 - Andrew went on to hit a career best 193 before he was bowled. His innings included six sixes in one over - a feat which had never previously been achieved by an Epping Foresters player.

Andrew's innings included 12 sixes and 23 fours and helped Epping Foresters reach 312 for 6 in their 40 overs. Andrew's innings was just seven runs short of the club record for the highest individual score which is held by Stuart Turner who hit 200 at Birchanger in the 1960s.

Turner went on to be a successful all-rounder with Essex.

Epping Cricket Club joined in the spirit of the day with their run chase and scored at ten runs an over - and needed 100 from the last 17 overs before Epping Foresters ended up victors by 60 runs.

Andrew, who attended Chipping Ongar Primary School and Anglo European School in

Ingatstone, said: "Every batsman dreams of hitting six sixes. I played each ball as it came. On the fifth six I realised I may be gaining a record; I hit it into the same place."

He added: "Everything came together. It was an enjoyable afternoon against good opposition. It was great getting the ton with my dad who has coached me over the years."

Andrew's father, Peter, who has been with Epping Foresters since 1969, said: "It was every aging cricketing father's dream - batting with your son watching him get a big hundred. He was on fire!"

He added: "We almost ran out of balls! Lots of balls were lost in the forest. It was a great day's cricket played in the right spirit by both clubs."

Andrew has just graduated from Aston University and is now looking for a role in underwriting in the City.

ATHLETICS: Students win nine medals at TKAT Games

2.31pm - 4th July 2016

ATHLETES at King Harold Academy, Waltham Abbey, picked up nine medals - including three gold - when they took part in the first TKAT (The Kemnal Academic Trust) Games. Seventy-three students across years 7 to 10 competed in a range of field and track events at Crystal Palace Athletics stadium.

The games, which had an opening ceremony involving 12 King Harold students, featured 25 schools.

Year 10 students Adam Freeman and Elsie Stojic proudly held the King Harold Academy flag high during the parade. King Harold also provided the music in the form of a 42-piece samba band.

Gold medal winners - Teddy Hall (Year 7) 200m; Billy Williams (Year 8) Shot; Jacob Tooley (Year 9) High Jump.

Silver medal winners - Paris Colgate (Year 7) 200m.

Bronze medal winners - Albert Ball (Year 9) 100m; Deniel Walker (Year 10) 200m; Jack Whitten (Year 10) Shot; Mia Opinel (Year 7) 100m; Paris Colgate, Bayley Paul, Mia Opinel, Maddison Haythorn, Millie Foy (Year 7) Relay.

CHARITY: Students take part in sponsored run

1.32pm - 20th June 2016

YEAR 7 students at Debden Park High School, Loughton, took part in a sponsored 5km run to raise money for Skillforce and Cancer Research.

The event was a part of the Skillforce programme that 12 students are taking part in.

The programme involves developing lifelong skills to aid them through various challenges of life.

Activities have included a BMX workshop, First Aid course and navigation course along with organising the 5km run.

KS3 Progress Co-ordinator Merys Rees said: "The students were dedicated, enthusiastic and motivated during the run and their passion towards both causes were clearly seen."

"It was fantastic to see every Year 7 student taking part, working together and celebrating their success as a year group."

Each student received a medal and certificate.

The final amount raised will be known later this week.

RUGBY: Girls unbeaten in tag rugby competition

4.05pm - 19th June 2016

YEAR 7 and Year 8 girls at West Hatch High School combined to form a formidable team which was undefeated in the Barking Tag Rugby competition organised by the RFU.

The girls' results included 7-1 and 5-0 victories.

Maddie Fitch, who plays for Eton Rugby Club, scored seven tries while her sister, Amy - who is also with Eton - scored four tries.

The Year 7s also showed their worth as Isobel Smith scored three tries against schools such as Sydney Russell and Jo Richardson.

This was the first time the year groups had played together as a team and they gelled straight away.

Lily Wagstaff captained the team on the day and showed great leadership skills helping the Year 7s and organising the team.

Kiera Carroll and Jodie Verghese were triumphant in moving the ball forward drawing the opposition in.

Regular training attendees Tilly Mae Kent and Faye Plunger (Year 7) held their own, making crucial tags and supporting the girls.

Making her first appearance, Maya Matias kept West Hatch in the game at one point with her rapid speed to stop the opposition scoring at the last minute.

Each girl played their part and they really enjoyed.

Head of PE Coralie Reid said: "I stepped in to take the girls as Miss Dawkes (their coach) was unavailable."

"It was a pleasure to see how well they played, and always nice to see West Hatch completely dominate in any sport."

FOOTBALL: School's Arsenal star supports charity match

8.59am - 23rd May 2016

A GROUP of former students who left Davenant Foundation School in 2010 continue to raise money in memory of their friend Peter Cross who died of leukaemia, aged 20.

A special football match was organised on Saturday between the school's 1st XI and their 2010 counterparts organised and managed by ex-Davenant student and Arsenal player Carl Jenkinson.

He and his friends pulled together their squad, publicised the match and have so far raised over £1,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The result of an entertaining match was a 3-1 victory for the Old Boys. The Davenant team

represented themselves well and impressed Carl and his friends. Headteacher Chris Seward was pleased to give his permission for the match. He said: "Carl and his friends came to see me and asked if they could have a game in memory of Peter Cross. They have such great memories of their school days and, in particular, of Peter and it was a pleasure to allow the event to happen." The former students will continue to remember Peter and hope to have another game in his memory in the years ahead. To support the fundraising effort [click here](#)

FOOTBALL: Goalkeeper receives tournament award

8.39am - 18th May 2016

YEAR 11 West Hatch High School student Charlie Freeman was awarded the best goalkeeper award when he played for Tottenham Hotspur's Under-16s in the two-day Geneva Cup. The Spurs side played matches against Ajax Amsterdam, FC Servette and FC Mayern as well as Champions League finalists Atletico Madrid. Charlie kept one clean sheet as his side drew 0-0 with Atletico but fared well in all others drawing 1-1 with Ajax, beating FC Mayern twice (5-1 and 3-2) but lost to Swiss outfit FC Servette 2-0. England representative Charlie, who has already secured a scholarship for next year and will join Tottenham on a full-time basis, was also recognised as the best goalkeeper in the tournament. He said: "The tournament was a fantastic experience and to win the goalkeeper's award was even better. "I am looking forward to next season already, once my GCSEs are out of the way."

SCHOOL SPORTS: Students get chance to try new sports

8.37am - 18th May 2016

A GROUP of King Harold Academy students attended a sports event at Debden Park High School when they could learn archery, judo and fencing. PE teacher Luke Andrew said: "This was a great opportunity for students to learn about different sports from the curriculum, some of which they were participating in for the first time. "They received coaching from experts who made the events very enjoyable for the students." Students from Debden Park, Roding Valley, Davenant and West Hatch were also involved in the day.

KARTING: School team reaches national finals

3.07pm - 16th May 2016

DEBDEN Park High School's Karting Team have reached the final of the British Schools Karting Championships after success in the regional heat at Buckmore Park, Kent. The team - sponsored by Super Green Racing, Duncan Phillips, Waltham Abbey, and the school's PTA - will race in the final at Whitton Mill, Northampton, on July 9. The Debden Park teams were placed first and third out of 18 teams. The star of the day was Luke Zabbar who was placed first in both races. Anthony Hughes, Director of Year 7, 8 and Transition at Debden Park High School, said: "It was a great day for all concerned. The boys were fantastic in all races and gained on average five positions above their starting spot on all races. "The students had been working hard for this day and attended only three practice sessions at the track to prepare themselves for the track and the challenges it has to offer." He added: "The simple aim we gave the boys was to maintain their position on the track at each race and improve it if they could. We got far more than we asked for. They were sensational. "Mr Blythe (Leon Blythe, Director of Year 10 and PE teacher) and I could not ask for more from the students. They maintained the pace in each race, ensured they followed the rules so they wouldn't be penalised in any way and the strategy paid off." Debden Park High School and the parents are grateful for all the support and sponsorship that Howard Green, Duncan Phillips and Super Green Racing have given to the students. Racer Ben Green coached the boys one evening to ensure they understood how to read any track they are faced with. The Super Green Racing Team was on Sun Street in Waltham Abbey for the 'Keep it Local' May Day Fair which attracted great interest from youngsters wanting to learn to kart and see the progress of a driver from karting to cars. The Debden Park High School team members are: Supergreen A - Robbie Davidson, Jordan Ismail and Archie Lapidge. Supergreen B - Luke Zabbar, Craig Kitts and James Struckmyer.

SWIMMING: Success for Chigwell School students

3.48pm - 11th May 2016

Swimmers at Chigwell School competed in the IAPS (Independent Association of Prep Schools) National Swimming Finals at the K2 Centre in Crawley. All the swimmers had already progressed through a qualifying round. Isabel Iley won the national title for her age group clocking 15:21 secs in the 25m butterfly while Alexandra Bibby (29.85secs), took silver in the 50m final. Jack Cushway achieved a personal best of 31.95secs in the 50m freestyle finishing tenth missing a place in the final by 0.70 sec.

* Emily Iley won the 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, 100m butterfly and 200m backstroke and was second in the 200m butterfly, achieving personal best times in all events, at the London Regionals at Crystal Palace. She has now qualified for the National Championships later this summer.

FOOTBALL: West Hatch crowned county champions

12.08pm - 5th May 2016

WEST Hatch High School's 1st XI football team have been crowned Under-19 Essex Schools Cup winners after a 4-3 final victory over Southend High School for Boys.

The Chigwell school went one better than a year ago when the same school beat West Hatch in the final.
This year's final was held at Dagenham & Redbridge FC.
West Hatch's goals were scored by Eren Muti, Ronnie Smurthwaite (penalty) as the side were 2-1 up at half-time.
Southend levelled the tie three minutes into the second half before Eren Muti netted his second of the match to give West Hatch the lead.
Cam Ovel made it 4-2 with 15 minutes left but Southend scored again - after Erin Muti was shown a second yellow card - to make it a nervy last few minutes for the ten men of West Hatch.
Head of PE Coralie Reid said: "Big congratulations to captain Ronnie Smurthwaite, the players, assistant Mr Howell and Mr Hoy who, now in his tenth year at the school, has won his first ever football Essex Cup as a teacher (his fourth as player and teacher for West Hatch) and emulates his father, Mr Hoy Senior, who won the trophy three times in a row in the 1980s."
She added: "Also a massive thank you to all parents and staff who watched and supported the boys, I know it was very much appreciated and to Dagenham & Redbridge Football Club for a super venue and hospitality."

MARATHON: Polar bear sets world record

9.29am - 27th April 2016

THE wife of the headmaster of Chigwell School has run herself into the record books by breaking the record for the fastest marathon by a runner dressed in a full-body animal costume.
Gill Punt, 45, who lives and works at Chigwell School, broke the Guinness World Record dressed as a polar bear, which is one of the mascots for Cancer Research UK.
The previous Guinness World Record was 4 hrs 30mins which Gill beat by nine minutes to set a new record of 4 hrs 21 mins.
Gill said that having the added challenge of running as a polar bear and attempting a Guinness World Record gave a massive boost to the fundraising endeavours.
She added that within the Chigwell School community a number of pupils, close friends and colleagues have experienced cancer and the fundraising is a way of helping to beat Cancer sooner.
Gill organised more than 100 parents, staff and Old Chigwellians to run the Royal Parks Half Marathon last October - when the team raised £93,000 for Cancer Research UK.
The grand total raised to date is £260,000.
To make a donation to help Cancer Research UK visit
<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/GillPunt>

MARATHON: PE teacher raises over £3,000

12.17pm - 25th April 2016

WEST Hatch High School PE teacher Lizzie Edwards is set to raise over £3,000 for the Barnardo's charity after completing the London Marathon in 4 hours 2 minutes.
Lizzie said: "It was a great experience but very tough for the last few miles where I had to push my body to its absolute limit.
"The crowd were amazing and so was the atmosphere and that helped me through. "My target was 4 hours so I am pleased with what I have achieved."
To add your support visit <https://www.justgiving.com/Elizabeth-Edwards9/>

NETBALL: Triple success for Debden Park teams

9.49am - 25th March 2016

FOR the first time in Debden Park High School's history, three of the school's netball teams have won their West Essex District Leagues.
The Year 8, Year 9 and Under-16s teams have all won their leagues and go through to the play-offs against the Harlow schools.
Building on the success of the Year 9 team winning their league last year, the now Under-16 team, which secured a sponsorship deal earlier in the year with Gillard Building contractors, are thrilled to have won again and be going through for the second time.
Head of PE Jen Perry said: "We cannot express the dedication and commitment we have seen from all of our netballers and the standard that has been reached by them.
"In numerous matches our students have played exceptionally well, maintaining a high goal difference.
"This is a fantastic achievement and the netballers are an absolute credit to our school."

NETBALL: West Hatch team crowned district champions

7.43am - 24th March 2016

WEST Hatch High School's Year 7 netball team have been crowned district champions after a comprehensive 23-9 victory over top Harlow school St Marks.
The girls - who recently reached the quarter finals of the Essex Cup - won the West Essex league on Monday after victories over Davenant, Debden Park and Roding Valley.
They went on to represent West Essex in the District trophy against the winning Harlow District school, St Marks, yesterday (Wednesday).
Head of PE and Year 7 coach Coralie Reid said: "The girls outplayed their rivals from the start and showed exceptional skill and determination from the first whistle all the way to the end.
"It is an excellent way to finish the netball season. The girls have been fantastic from day one and I am looking forward to seeing what they can do in the forthcoming athletics season."

SCHOOL SPORTS: Hundreds benefit from Sports Partnership

1.18pm - 23rd March 2016

HUNDREDS of children across the Epping Forest district are getting into sport through the work of the West Essex Schools Sports Partnership spearheaded by two Davenant Foundation School-based teachers.
Marcus Cattell is the Partnership's School Games Organiser who works with the 33 primary and infants schools and district's six secondary schools which make up the Partnership.
Already since last September some 4,000 participants have taken part in the Partnership's

sports events across Epping Forest.

A Key Stage 1 event was recently held for primary and secondary school students with various sprint races, jumping events and relay and obstacle races at King Harold Academy.

Secondary school students - as sports leaders - are also involved in the events by helping with the staging of competitions.

Highlighting the benefits of the Partnership, Mr Cattell said: "It gives the students the opportunity to compete for their schools against other schools.

"A lot of the funding comes from the Department of Health and helps with our work to help reduce obesity among children."

He added: "The kids enjoy the opportunity to compete and it also shows them how to develop a healthy lifestyle.

"They can work in teams learning how to win or lose.

"A few of the events are individual and teaches them how they can win on their own, respecting the opposition and the officials and it also teaches them the core values which I really stress - team work, respect, enjoyment, discipline and sportsmanship.

"The kids get to meet each other, and it is good for their transition from primary school to secondary school."

The Partnership also involves special needs children who are the focus of Gill Newlyn, the Youth Sports Trust's lead inclusion co-ordinator who is also based at Davenant Foundation School.

She said: "For some of the children sometimes coming to an event is the first time they have been selected to represent their school.

"It gives them the opportunity to realise that sport should be fully inclusive."

CRICKET: New season rolls in at Jubilee Park

3.25pm - 19th March 2016

A NEW ride-on roller has arrived at Jubilee Park to begin preparing the cricket square for the forthcoming season.

This year Jubilee Park will host matches for both Ongar Cricket Club, who will play on Saturdays, and the National Cricket League which will host matches on Sundays.

The town council is grateful for a grant from Essex County Council which paid for the end-of-year preparation of the cricket square.

The roller, which is being hired for the coming season, is being used and driven by CRS Pitchcare, the contractor selected by Ongar Town Council to provide on-going maintenance and improvements to the cricket square.

Jubilee Park manager Angus McKenzie said: "This will be a great asset to Jubilee Park and for cricket in Ongar in particular. I am looking forward to the return of Ongar Cricket Club to the venue and to host matches for the National Cricket League. This means that cricket will be played on both Saturdays and Sundays during the season.

"We would welcome any local cricket lovers to come and watch the matches."

The National Cricket League is also interested in developing local coaching for younger members of Ongar.

FOOTBALL: Girls' football festivals

5.22pm - 16th March 2016

THE King Harold Academy's Year 7 girls football team attended a football festival at Passmores Academy, Harlow.

The festival - involving King Harold Academy, Epping St John's, Davenant Foundation, Stewards Academy and Passmores Academy - provided the 11 and 12-year-olds with the opportunity to experience different styles of playing football.

Students enjoyed Futsal, Mash-Up Games, Soccercise and small-sided football.

More than 50 King Harold Academy girls also took part in a tournament at Epping St John's School with the Year 7 and 9 students placed second overall.

King Harold Academy PE teacher Elena Clark said: "Our students had a great time. They learnt a range of new football skills and enjoyed mixing with students from other schools.

"It's great to see girls' football being pushed forward in the local area."

RUGBY: Two Davenant teams reach county cup finals

5.40pm - 8th March 2016

TWO Davenant Foundation School rugby teams are through to the final of the Essex County Cup.

Both the Year 8 (Under-13s) and Year 9 (Under-14s) teams went unbeaten in their five group matches - beating some of the top rugby schools in Essex - to reach the final at May and Baker Rugby Club in Dagenham on March 20.

1st team and Year 9 coach Marcus Cattell says the achievement of the boys shows just how well rugby has developed at Davenant in recent years.

"The fact that we are now in two of the county finals just shows the strides we are making.

"The other teams and schools now know us. We are becoming well known on the county circuit and our fixture card is getting stronger as a result."

ATHLETICS: Year 8 girls reach county finals

8.39am - 8th March 2016

THE Year 8 girls indoor athletics team at Debden Park High School is into the county final for a third successive year after winning the district competition.

Debden Park hosted the district indoor athletics competition, which was run by the school's sports leaders, on Friday (March 4).

Teams of boys and girls from Year 7 and Year 8 competed in track and field events in a bid to secure a trip to the county event.

The Year 8 girls won their competition with the Year 8 boys narrowly missing out on a final spot.

Head of PE Jen Perry said "All our students were fantastic and we are very proud of the Year 8 girls.

"This will be the third time in a row we have got to the county finals and we look forward to the girls representing us in Southend on March 18."

RUGBY: Victory for Ongar Under-12s

11.53am - 7th March 2016

ONGAR Under-12s recorded an 8-2 victory over Wanstead at Ongar Leisure Centre on Sunday.
Ongar loaned the visitors two players but were not as generous during the match. Despite going behind, Ongar pressed on with Mattie Cranwell and Max Iliffe making some brilliant running lines and throwing off some dummy passes to slice through defenders to score.
Archie van Klink had his best game at scrum-half since Christmas and was constantly in referee's Phillip Cranwell's ear about playing quick ball and taking quick taps at opposition infringements.
Along with Ben Terrington at fly-half, they were both pivotal in keeping the game moving at pace.
Teddy Surety had another good performance making it three on the trot.
With upcoming festivals at Thurrock and Wanstead, Ongar are building at the right time.
Man of the Match was Oscar Smyth who performed very well in both an Ongar shirt and a Wanstead shirt.
Ongar's try scorers were Mattie Cranwell (4), Max Iliffe (1) Jake Peeters (1) Teddy Surety (1) and Ben Terrington (1).

LOUGHTON: School reaches next stage in championships

8.16am - 7th March 2016

DEBDEN Park High School is on course to retain its title as British School's Karting champions for the third successive year following success at the regional heat at Brentwood Karting Circuit.
The school has entered three teams with the support of Supergreen Racing and its managing director Howard Green and Debden Park High School's PTA. Howard and his team provide training and funding for the nine students to develop their skills.
The PTA supported the students with funding to enter the competition.
The Willingale Road school celebrated joint first place with Archie Lapidge, Jordan Ismail and Lochlan Bearman managing 107 points.
Craig Kitts, James Struckmyer and Luke Zabbar were ranked third with 106 points with both teams progressing to the next stage of the competition at Buckmore Park in Kent.
The third team - featuring Year 8 boys Adam MacDonnell, Robbie Davidson and Ryan Massey - came ninth with 67 points.

CHIGWELL: Netball team into cup quarter-finals

8.16am - 24th February 2016

WEST Hatch High School's Year 7 netball team are into the quarter-finals of the Essex Cup ('A' competition) after extending their unbeaten run to six matches with an 18-1 victory over Heddingham.
PE teacher Coralie Reid said: "The girls dominated the game with many players playing out of position to make it more of a challenge for them."
The player of the match, voted by the opposing team, was Gabriella Dada, who received the accolade for the eighth time in all competitions this year.
The girls now face a trip to Westcliff High School for Girls in the last eight of the competition on Thursday, March 3.

