

COMMUNITY LIFE

COSTESSEY

→ The Costessey Carers Support Group meets in the Youth and Community Centre, Breckland Road, from 11am to 2pm on the first Wednesday of each month. There are speakers on a variety of subjects and outings are organised from time to time. These sessions are free and carers can relax and have a social time. Coffee, tea and biscuits are served.

There is also a water colour painting group which meets at 10.30am until 12.30pm. Further information from 01603 743411, 01603 742185 or ask at the surgery reception at Costessey Medical Practice.

→ John Denby introduced the speaker, David North, to members and guests at a meeting of the Costessey Society in the Parish Rooms. Mr North gave a humorous illustrated talk called An Unnatural History of Birds. Mr Denby thanked him.

Festive family's final fundraiser

A festive family whose wonderfully decorated home lit up their neighbourhood at Christmas for 20 years but who called it quits last year, revealed today that the final year raised £1,040 for charity.

Motorists driving down Friends Road in Earlham for the past two decades had regularly stopped to look at the Christmas decorations and to leave a donation to charity.

Jimmy Matthews, 54, a full-time carer for his wife Katherine, 54, who has ME, said today: "I would like to thank everyone who has helped us raised money for charity over the past 20 years. We have raised thousands of pounds, but I don't know how much.

"This year we raised £1,040 for Quidenham Hospice, the East Anglian Air Ambulance and various small animal charities."

Mr Matthews started decorating the house with Christmas lights in 1987 and his first display included just one Santa coming out of a chimney.

→ If you would like to carry on the tradition by taking the Santas, snowmen, reindeers and fairy lights, ring Mr Matthews on 01603 505416.



All lit up: James Matthews, left, and his father Jimmy. PHOTO: ALAN BENNETT, MEDIA AND IMAGING SOLUTIONS (WWW.MEDIAIMAGINGSOLUTIONS.COM)

COSTESSEY

→ A concert of songs and organ music solos will be presented in St Edmund's Parish Church on Sunday, February 17 at 2.30pm.

Performers will be David Berwick (organ), The Warblers and The Tonics choirs.

Refreshments will be served during the interval.

Admission is free to this concert, and a retiring collection for the creation of an organ maintenance fund will be made.

HEARTSEASE

→ Next meeting of the Tortoise Club will be on Wednesday, February 20 at St Francis Church hall starting at 8pm.

This will be an important meeting the subject being Wake up After Hibernation. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings.

adopted charities in 2008

Following on from last year and our staggering achievement in raising over £79,000 for local and national charities we are delighted to confirm that our work and support will continue through 2008.

To explain; our adopted charities are chosen by the teams within the office and this year we have looked closer to home with local community charities being the recipients of the individual office support.

This adoption process in no way affects the ever growing charity list which can be seen in our offices or when we visit you. "The choice of charity is always down to you" and "You make the difference"

Acle office has chosen to adopt Fairhaven Primary School, Brundall have adopted Cancer Community Chest, Costessey are continuing the work started last year by our city office and have chosen to adopt E.A.C.H. Our Hellesdon office has chosen to adopt the local branch of P.A.C.T and our City office the Matthew Project.

Colman Road office intends to continue their hands on approach with BREAK whilst supporting their adopted local charity of The Clare School.

Poringland office have adopted Rose Cottage Cats, Sprowston the local branch of the NSPCC, Thorpe Marriott office Priscilla Bacon Lodge and our Thorpe End office will be continuing the work started by the Costessey office in 2007 and have chosen to adopt F.A.I.T.H.

Our goal this year is to increase on what was achieved during 2007 and to let you know how we are doing and the events we will be helping with throughout 2008.

'Radix Lecti' was where we left off last week.

I tried to show that I was the daring adventurous type by sleeping in a tent at the bottom of McCullough's garden.

In fact I have done a lot more of late to shake off the couch potato label. I've picked a bad time to do it though.

Have you noticed how good the telly has become lately?

My favourite by far is the innovative Moving Wallpaper and Echo Beach. It is such a simple idea, one programme about making a soap opera immediately followed by the show itself.

Jason Donovan and Martine McCutcheon, the leading couple of the latter have soared in my estimation.

They walk the tightrope very well, not falling into self parody on the one side or self importance on the other.

I'm sure they will be pleased to learn that I am a fan because all the reviews seem to have written the project off as a near miss.

I hope it gets a second series.

I was also delighted to see the Life On Mars spin off Ashes to Ashes begin its run on Thursday.

The two programmes are linked by the Eastenders' writer, Tony Jordan.

Before we get too jealous of his phenomenal run of success we should perhaps



pause for a moment and remember that he was also responsible in part for the doomed Eldorado.

Thank goodness he didn't let that particular experience put him off.

It's been tough few weeks for me though, keeping up with all this culture, because I have had a touch of my old trouble.

I've signed up to be in another play.

I know I shouldn't. I just can't seem to help myself sometimes.

I thought it would be good for me to break a few of the bad habits that set in during the run up to Christmas.

I date that from September by the way.

So instead of meeting up with the chaps for a few beers after work and flopping down to dribble my way through the evening in front of the goggle box, I have been hard at it running on and off the stage.

I have been rehearsing the part of Bill, a cheeky

cock-er-ney taxi driver in Ray Cooney's farce Funny Money.

The play is very much of its type and none the worse for that.

The action revolves around Henry Perkins, played by Trevor Burton, who unwittingly steals a large sum of money.

As he plots his escape from the rat race he draws in other members of the cast who come to see the appeal of a life on Spain's Coasta del Crime.

Able supported by other Maddermarket stalwarts, Dawn Brindle, David Newham, Jo Sessions, Angela Gaymer and Matthew Pinkerton and Barry Parsons as Mr Big, Trevor forces the pace from the front.

I am grateful to our director Judy Daykin for letting me join in.

Funny Money is at The Maddermarket Theatre, 7.30pm from February 14 through to Saturday, February 23 when there is also a matinee performance at 2.30pm.

Tickets at £10 & £8 are now on sale: call 01603 620917.

I'm looking forward to the run of course but I hope those clever people on the telly can keep things ticking over nicely until I can resume my rightful place on the couch.

→ Stephen_Mears@hotmail.com

ALEXANDER&CO

www.property-shop.co.uk

ALEXANDER&CO

www.property-shop.co.uk

your

sprowston

office

01603
411299