



# Calm down!

Keane's message to fans *Back Page*

WIN A ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP AT CLARICE HOUSE

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# For the love of Lucy

### LAUNCH: EADT backs £3million children's hospice appeal

By Jo Thewlis

A £3MILLION appeal is launched today to build a new children's hospice for Suffolk and north Essex - and we are asking EADT readers to give generously to help this important campaign.

The *East Anglian Daily Times* is backing the appeal by East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) to build a much-needed, six-bedroom hospice in quiet woodland in Ipswich, to offer vital care and support to children like Lucy Button.

Lucy, 17, suffers from cerebral

palsy and needs round-the-clock care but enjoys light therapy and pampering treats during respite stays at the existing hospice in Ipswich, which is now too small to cope with future needs.

Children's books author Anthony Horowitz will join EACH bosses and families at Trinity Park today to kick-start the Treehouse Appeal to raise £3million for the fantastic new centre.

Mr Horowitz said: "EACH is at the heart of Suffolk and I can see the new building not wait to standing."

**How you can help: Pages 4 & 5**



**VITAL HELP:** Lucy Button, pictured here with mum Michelle, gets essential support from the East Anglian Children's Hospices.

Photo: LUCY TAYLOR



## NEWSLINE

### Crash driver in court

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## BUSINESSEAST

### Building society's profits fall

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## BRIEFING

## Remember lost soldier at event

A VARIETY of cars, bikes and tractors can be admired at a rally which will also feature a special event in memory of a local soldier who was killed in Afghanistan.

This year's Wheltenham Vintage Car, Bike and Tractor rally takes place on Sunday, May 16.

The rally will include a special 'It's a knockout' event to be held in memory of Lance Corporal Adam Drane who became the 100th serviceman to be killed in the Afghan conflict just before Christmas last year.

For more information or to book a team of six in the event call 07771993184.

## Volunteers needed

Volunteers are being sought to help families as part of the charity Home-Start Babergh.

A new, nine-week volunteer preparation course starts on Friday, May 7 to train anyone who has experience of bringing up children and a friendly and caring attitude.

The weekly sessions will run every Friday morning at the base in Hadleigh Enterprise Park until Friday, July 9.

Anyone who can understand of the pressures of parenting and offer practical or emotional support can contact Gillian Hall on 01473 822822 or email [info@homestartbabergh.co.uk](mailto:info@homestartbabergh.co.uk)

## Stalwart tributes

About 300 people packed into a church to remember a much-loved figure of Lavenham.

A memorial service took place to pay tribute to the life of Tony Hepworth, a village stalwart, who died of cancer aged 73 last month.

St Peter and St Pauls was packed out for the service in his memory on Friday.

Lynn Gurling, chairman of the parish council, said it was a "befitting of such a gentleman".

## Charity shop theft

Police are appealing for information after a man had a wallet stolen from a charity shop in Sudbury.

The wallet was taken from his bag in a shop in North Street in the town between 11.15am and 11.30am on Thursday.

It follows a number of similar incidents in the town last year. The exact amount of cash in the wallet has not been disclosed.

Anyone with any information is asked to call Sgt Ian Watson at the Sudbury and Great Cornard Safer Neighbourhood Team on 01284 774100 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

## Handbag stolen

Police in mid Suffolk have appealed for help from the public after a car was broken into in a church car park.

Suspects targeted the blue Vauxhall Corsa that had been parked in the car park in Church Lane, Barham, between 1.15pm and 2.15pm on Saturday afternoon. A window was smashed and a handbag was taken from inside. Anyone with information about this crime can speak to members of the Crime Investigation bureau on 01473 613500.

# £3million hospice

## CHILDREN'S FACILITY: Hydro, physio and occupational therapy available

Reports by Jo Thewlis

AN AMBITIOUS appeal to raise £3million for a new children's hospice in Suffolk will be launched today.

Author Antony Horowitz will kick-start the Treehouse Appeal for East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) to build a fully equipped hospice facility in Ipswich to care for life-threatened children and their families.

Exciting plans to create a purpose-built hospice in four acres of woodland off Bixley Road will be unveiled at an official launch at Trinity Park this morning.

The EADT is backing the appeal, and over the coming days and weeks will be publishing a series of special reports and asking readers to give generously to support this very deserving cause.

*Foyle's War* author Mr Horowitz, who has a home in Orford, said: "I cannot imagine what it must be like to have a child who is life-threatened.

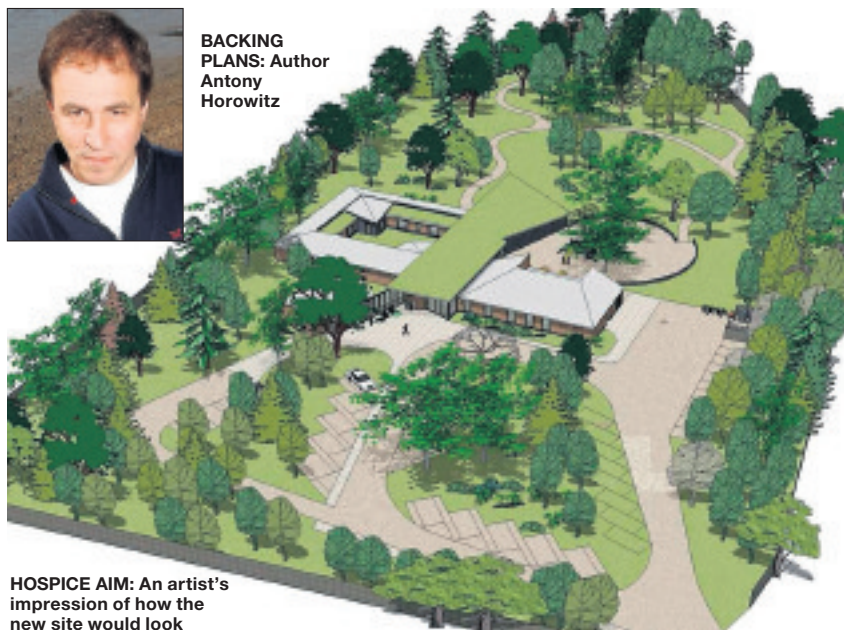
"EACH is at the heart of Suffolk and I cannot wait to see the new building standing."

The acclaimed children's author is backing the bid to create a brand new, six-bedroom site with hydro, physio and occupational therapy areas as well as a music room for youngsters throughout Suffolk and North Essex.

End-of-life care and short-break stays for around 80 families are currently provided in



BACKING PLANS: Author Antony Horowitz



HOSPICE AIM: An artist's impression of how the new site would look



APPEAL SUPPORTERS: Jockey Frankie Dettori and actor Griff Rhys Jones

a modest bungalow in the grounds of Ipswich Hospital.

But the hospice, which offers play activities, days out and therapy for life-threatened children and their families, has outgrown its current site.

Families staying at the current bungalow in the final stages of their child's life have to sleep on a sofa bed in a cramped bedroom which also doubles as a music therapy room.

If the vital cash can be raised, the contemporary hospice will be built in tranquil woodland surroundings, with six bedrooms for youngsters as well as en-suite accommodation for families.

The new building will have a quiet room, staff areas, offices and quiet, landscaped grounds where youngsters can relax and spend quiet time.

EACH bosses hope the fantastic new facility will allow the charity to help some of the 400 children and young people in the area who need their support.

Melanie Chew, director of fundraising at EACH, said: "Demand for the care and support we provide has increased and we have subsequently outgrown our current building.

"I am now appealing to people all over the region to help us raise the funds needed to complete the project."

Thanks to the donation of the £500,000 site by a charitable trust, dreams of opening the new hospice are tantalisingly close to becoming a reality.

## Here's how you can help the appeal

East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) provides care and support for life-threatened children and their families across Suffolk and North Essex, either in families' own homes or at the EACH hospice in Walker Close, Ipswich, which the charity has outgrown. There are not enough beds and rooms to meet needs, and there are no dedicated spaces for the specialist services required by families. Initially intended for a maximum capacity of 40 families, the current hospice now cares for more than 80 families.

EACH has been donated a four acre woodland plot in Ipswich by a local charitable trust on which the charity will build a new hospice. The new building will allow end of life care to be delivered in greater privacy, provide more bed spaces for life-threatened children, and overnight accommodation for other family members and include dedicated areas for specialist therapies including hydrotherapy, physiotherapy, music and play therapy.

EACH needs to raise £3 million through the Treehouse Appeal to build and equip the new hospice, and throughout 2010 there will be many ways to get involved, as an individual, company, school or community group. Every single contribution helps, no matter what size. You can sponsor a brick in our woodland path, buy our lovely merchandise, join us on the Orwell Walk or hold your own event - such as a Butterfly Day coffee and cakes. For more information visit: [www.each.org.uk/treehouse](http://www.each.org.uk/treehouse) or call: 01473 276115.

Yes, I want to support the Treehouse Appeal

Please tick:

I enclose a donation of

£.....

(please make cheques payable to EACH Treehouse Appeal).

If you would like to donate by credit or debit card please call us on 01473 276115

I would like a fundraising pack to get some ideas and tips.

Title: .....

First name: .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

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We are very grateful for your support, but to save vital funds we only acknowledge donations on request. Please tick if you would like an acknowledgement.

Gift Aid Declaration

I am a UK tax payer and would like EACH to treat all donations I make from this date as Gift Aid donations, until I notify you otherwise, so that EACH receive an extra 28p for every £1 I donate. N.B. You must pay sufficient tax to cover the amount we will reclaim on your donation. Please let us know if your circumstances change.

We would like to send you occasional updates on the Treehouse Appeal. If you do not wish to receive this, please tick this box.

Please return this coupon to:

EACH Treehouse Appeal, Room 23 Epsilon House, West Road, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich IP3 9FJ



Registered Charity No - 1066284

Other celebrities such as Suffolk-based television star Griff Rhys Jones, the jockey Frankie Dettori, Radio 2 DJ Simon Mayo, band leader Jools Holland and BBC *Look East's* Stewart White have also lent their support to the appeal, which will embark on fundraising events throughout the year.

Terry Hunt, EADT editor, said: "This is such an important appeal for an absolutely brilliant cause.

"Every time we ask our readers to support

a fundraising campaign they always respond with tremendous generosity, and I'm sure the response will be exactly the same with the Treehouse Appeal."

To find out more about the Treehouse Appeal or to make a donation, visit [www.each.org.uk/treehouse](http://www.each.org.uk/treehouse) or call 01473 276115.

See the coupon above to find out more about giving to the appeal.

# appeal under way

at site set in four acres of woodland



'STAYING POSITIVE': Michelle Button with daughter Lucy, 17, and four-year-old son Oliver

Photos: LUCY TAYLOR

## Providing a vital lifeline for families

FOR mother Michelle Button, the children's hospice is a lifeline.

Mrs Button, 40, nurses her 17-year-old daughter Lucy, who has had cerebral palsy since birth.

Lucy, who is blind and has to be fed via a tube in her stomach, needs around-the-clock care which can take its toll on family life.

But thanks to expert staff at the centre off Foxhall Road in Ipswich, run by East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), Mrs Button can take a break while Lucy enjoys the centre's light therapy treatment and little pampering treats.

Mrs Button, of Trinity Close, Kesgrave, said: "They just give you moments as a proper family. I can walk out of there and breathe and know it's okay to leave Lucy there, knowing she's going to have a good time."

"She always comes home with her hair



BONDED: Michelle and Lucy Button

washed and her nails painted."

The brightly-decorated bungalow is one of EACH's three hospices, providing care and support to life-threatened children and their families throughout the region.

Staff at the hospice offer activities for all the family, including days out with siblings, arts and crafts and music therapy.

But it's not just the youngsters who enjoy a break and some fun. Mrs Button says carers

always have time for a chat and a cup of tea. "The hospice is a home from home," she said. "Everyone is always so happy to see you. They are friends as well."

"Sometimes, if you get a bit upset, you can sit and talk to them."

With two other children, Mrs Button enjoys the breaks Lucy spends at the hospice as it gives her a chance to spend time with her four-year-old son Oliver and 16-year-old son James, doing activities which would be impossible without the hospice's help.

"Life would be very stressful without them," she said. "I look forward to my days off when Lucy is there."

"You can't always do normal, everyday things with Lucy, everything has to be planned ahead."

"Their care and support gives me the space I need to recharge my batteries and get the energy together to start

all over again." But with just four rooms, the hospice is stretched to provide vital care for the 400 youngsters in the area who need support.

EACH, which runs two other hospices in Milton in Cambridge and Quidenham in Norfolk, relies heavily on donations to meet the £5.8million it needs to operate every year.

Mrs Button said: "It is horrendous that the hospices are funded by donations. They are there for everybody and they get very little Government support."

Mrs Button ran EACH's Ipswich Santa Run in December to raise funds for the centre which has made such a big difference to her life.

"With a child like Lucy, it would be so easy to be sad all the time but you just have to stay positive," she said.

"You have just got to keep your head above water and be happy for the things you have got."

### BRIEFING

## Gloved hand through window

POLICE are investigating an attempted burglary after a woman saw a gloved hand come through the bedroom window of her bungalow in Old Norwich Road, Ipswich.

The A 56-year-old was in bed when she saw the hand appear between 6am and 6.30am on Wednesday, March 10.

A neighbour was also disturbed when a window box was knocked off her window and a number of fan lights had been tampered with.

Neither house was entered and nothing was stolen.

Anyone with information is asked to call DC Ruth Hayter at Ipswich CID on 01473 613500 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Village barn dance

Villagers can dance the night away to an evening of electro-acoustic barn dance music this weekend.

Colchester-based group Hosepipe Band will be performing at the Sproughton Tith Barn on Saturday from 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 on the door. To book call Mike or Jenny Everett 01473 742334.

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