

Warning to pet owners

PET owners are being urged to ensure their animals are vaccinated after a puppy died of a highly contagious disease.

A stray pit bull was being looked after at Tendring Council's boarding kennels at Weeley after being picked up two weeks ago.

The animal was taken to a vets, but had to be put down as it was suffering from parvovirus.

Tendring Council has advised dog owners to contact their vet immediately if their dog shows symptoms of vomiting, diarrhoea, lethargy, or fever and to ensure their pets are vaccinated.

Community group award

A COMMUNITY transport service that runs shopping and hospital trips has been given a national endorsement

Harwich Connexions Transport Co-operative has received Quality Mark Standards accreditation.

Debbie Rotchell, Connexions manager, said: "We are absolutely thrilled.

"Our transport services are a lifeline to some of the most vulnerable members of the community who do not have access to other forms of transport."

Help find my drone

RESIDENTS in Frinton are being asked to check their back gardens for a missing remote control drone.

John Leonard was flying the Phantom 2 drone outside his home, in Fourth Avenue, when he lost control of the 37cm long craft, which is valued at £1,500.

He said: "The company I work for uses it to survey sites and I was familiarising myself with it."

Anyone who finds the drone, which went missing on Monday, should call Mr Leonard on 07825 423367.

Charity sale for Benin

A RUMMAGE sale will take place in Jaywick to raise cash for Benin Christian Support.

The event, which is being organised by Clacton Rotary Club, will take place at Golf Green Hall, in Golf Green Road, on Saturday, from 10am to noon.

Entry costs 30p and includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

Health services at Catalyst House agree to new extended lease

Eviction fears lift for lifeline groups

By WENDY BRADING
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GROUPS providing a lifeline to people in need have won a stay of execution after the lease on their premises was extended.

A number of health-related services are based at Catalyst House, including the Short Term Wheelchair loan service, Colchester Catalyst Charity and the Independent Living Centre.

Other health and social groups at the base, in Newcomen Way, Colchester, include the NHS wheelchair service, the heart failure and falls prevention teams, child protection and the speech and language team.

Essex Cares leases part of the building and its lease runs until next February.

NHS Property Services leases another part, but its agreement expired earlier this year, sparking fears some services would have to find new homes.

Now its lease has been extended until next February.

An NHS Property Services spokesperson said: "NHS Property Services inherited the lease on Catalyst House, in Colchester, from the Primary Care Trust when it was abolished last year.

"We have been in discussions for some months with the landlord to arrange an extension of the lease on the property for a further year."

The news came as a relief to



■ Wheelchair services – Sally Cheves and Mick Lunniss

Picture: SEANA HUGHES CO93459_02

Sally Cheves, the administrator with the Short Term Wheelchair Service.

It has 120 wheelchairs, which are loaned out free of charge to people who need them temporarily such as children with a broken leg, visiting elderly relatives, or people who are terminally ill.

Sally said: "We have 120 wheelchairs, 85 of which are out on free loan and we helped approxi-

mately 800 people over the past 12 months. The NHS does not provide wheelchairs for temporary use, such as release from hospital following an operation, or following treatment after an accident.

"We work under the same roof as the NHS wheelchair service, which is convenient and helps everyone. It is also important to be in a location that is close to

the hospital as well as away from the town centre so there is easy access and parking for visitors with restricted mobility.

"I think this makes Catalyst House on the business park the perfect location for all the health care services that are here to help people."

Anyone in need of a wheelchair or interested in becoming a volunteer can call 01206 518524.

Workers travel for Colchester protest

SIXTY workers travelled for more than five hours across the country to attend a demonstration outside Care UK's headquarters in Colchester.

The Unison members from Doncaster, who are protesting over changes to their pay and conditions, held a picket line outside the group's offices on Colchester Business Park yesterday.

They were joined by members of the Colchester and District Trade Union Council and members of Colchester Unison.

Union rep Dave Honeybone said: "This is part of 14 days of strike action which we started on Monday and our twenty-third day of action since February. The atmosphere is quite militant and quite jovial. Hopefully, we will get to meet with Care UK and see if we can resolve these issues."

He added workers wanted to keep the NHS terms and conditions which were in their contracts before they were transferred to Care UK.

Care UK said it had taken on the contract under the agreement that Doncaster Council would be reducing its budget for the service, but the transitional wage arrangements had been made for staff.

Care UK's director for learning disability services, Chris Hindle, said: "It is disappointing we've been unable to reach agreement with the trade unions, despite full consultation in 13 meetings since November.

"However, the majority of the affected colleagues have now formally accepted the changes, some with the assistance of their trade union representatives."

Ambassadorial role for mum Su

A MUM who nearly lost her newborn daughter to a rare infection has become an ambassador for a national support group.

Su Newton's daughter Emily spent a fortnight in hospital after being born with Group B Strep.

Su, 41, of Worsdell Way, Colchester, has now been chosen to become an ambassador for Group B Strep Support, which is battling to bring in routine NHS tests for pregnant mothers.

She said: "I hate to see other mums go through unnecessarily what our family had to endure.

"The UK is one of few developed countries that does not routinely screen pregnant women for GBS infection and yet it affects more babies in this country than spina bifida. I want to support and promote Group B Strep Support's campaign for better awareness



■ Raising awareness – Su Newton with her daughter Emily, four and better prevention of this deadly infection."

Emily, now four, is fit and ready to start at Queen Boudica Primary School this September.