Cyclists can get on the grid at charity day

Cyclists will be able to get on the chequered grid for a change at a charity event which is looking to raise money for a children’s hospice appeal.

TJ Motorsport is hosting a charity cycle event at Snetterton race track on May 1 from 5.30pm to 8pm, with riders able to test themselves on the three-mile circuit.

Taking part costs £10, but once registered, riders can do as many circuits as they wish until the close of play.

Money raised will be going to the East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices (EACH) nook appeal. The appeal is raising money for a new facility for EACH near Norwich.

Refreshments will be available from the Tyrrells restaurant.

For information, call TJ Motorsport on 07802 268435.

Friends bid to entice new owner to pub

A once-thriving city local could be reborn as “the people’s pub” if campaigners’ plans come to fruition.

The Marlpit, in Hellesdon Road, closed last year, but a support group is promoting it as a viable community pub in the hope of enticing a new owner – and members say they are prepared to bid for funding to run the pub themselves.

Green party ward councillor Lucy Galvin, who is a member of the Friends of Marlpit Pub, said it had huge potential and had been missed since its closure.

The group has been canvassing people living nearby, whose suggestions have included an onsite microbrewery and capitalising on the pub’s position on the Marriott’s Way by offering bike hire facilities.

“If we take it over, it would be the first community-led co-operative pub,” said Mrs Galvin.

“They’ve been done elsewhere, but this would be a city pub, run by city people, for city people. This is Norwich’s people’s pub.”

She said the pub would be a viable business for a new owner, and “Marlpit-on-Tour” groups of former regulars were still drinking together in pubs elsewhere in the city.

If the pub is sold to another bidder, Mrs Galvin said the work done by the group would be clear evidence of people’s affection for the pub.

“This could be a community space – it would still be a traditional local, but a pub that has something for the whole community.”

The group is selling a range of T-shirts with the message “The Marlpit – a local to love”, which have been designed by 23-year-old graphic design graduate Jessie Hall.

The Marlpit is for sale for £275,000 plus VAT, and was listed up for sale, and new rules effective from April 6 mean it cannot be converted into other facilities without going through the planning process.

The status means communities have a right to bid when it is put up for sale, and new rules effective from April 6 mean it cannot be converted into other facilities without going through the planning process.

T-shirts can be bought from www.marlpitcommunitypub.uk or by emailing your memories, with full contact details, to EDP.Letters@archant.co.uk

Convert your conservatory!

Have you bought a house and inherited a conservatory you don’t like? Or have your living needs changed over the years and you need to utilise the space differently?

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Pottery dating back three thousand years was among the finds by schoolchildren on an archaeological field trip.

The project run by Cambridge University saw schoolchildren from across Norfolk investigate a test pit in Brundall under the supervision of archaeologists from the university.

Laure Bonner, administrator at Access Cambridge Archaeology, said: “The most interesting find was a sherd of Anglo Saxon pottery which is only the second piece of this kind which we have found.”

A fragment of Bronze Age pottery was also dug up by schoolchildren, which could date back 3,000 years.

“This kind of Bronze Age sherd normally does not survive as they are so fragile,” Ms Bonner said.

“The pupils were mixed up with people they didn’t know at other schools and they all worked really well together,” she added.

Pupils from Aylsham, Broadland and Taverham High Schools were among those taking part in the project run by Cambridge University.

It is the third year that Year 9 pupils at Taverham High School have taken part in the project.

Maryanne Richardson, head of history at Taverham High, said: “The pupils are actually digging stuff which is being used as research material for academics at Cambridge University and have been given a great opportunity to see a different side to history.”

As part of the Higher Education Field Academy, organised by Cambridge University, they were shown around one of the colleges by a student there.

“It has been great not only to teach children about archaeology, but also to spark their interest about going into higher education,” Ms Bonner said.

The schoolchildren spent two days on the dig at Brundall and then a day at Cambridge University where they sat in on an archaeology lecture.

Do you have a story about archaeology? Email george.ryan@archant.co.uk