

Mail says...

What kind of thieves steal charity cash?

ONE of the Burton Mail's duties is to report on the criminal activity that takes place on our patch.

There's more cases of theft to report than any of us would like to see and even a single crime is one too many.

But amongst all the thefts we report, the taking of cash from charity money boxes is one that we know will depress our readers.

It's bad enough that raiders thought it necessary to smash their way into a veterinary clinic in Swadlincote but then to be heartless enough to take the small change left in charity boxes beggars belief.

These collections for organisations like the RSPCA contained the small change donated by those visiting the centre. These acts of kindness now count for nothing after the funds were taken by the raiders.

It's not the amount of money that was taken that is the issue.

It's not a great deal in the scheme of things.

It's the callous nature of the theft that upsets us and leaves us wondering what kind of people would stoop so low as to steal from such worthy causes.

Winning run

HE may have finished 3,549th in his half marathon but Mail reporter Rob Smyth is a winner in our eyes.

His charity effort, inspired by Katherine Sinfield and her battle against cancer, raised more than £800, which will go to help fight the disease.

It was a brilliant effort. Well done, Rob.

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1

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2

No new work to improve bridge until at least 2015

3

Lorry crash leads to death of 130 turkeys and 10-hour salvage op

4

Residents could have to pay for bin removal

5

'I can't live' - disabled man's benefits misery

6

More homes in Branson due as flood risk is lowered

7

BREAKING NEWS WITH VIDEOS: Vets check welfare of turkey cargo at lorry crash

8

Flowers provide beautiful surround

9

Firefighters' strikes called off after talks progress

10

Hospital announces new-look staff awards

Reporter Rob raises charity cash with run



RUN, ROB, RUN ... Mail reporter Rob Smyth took part in the BUPA Birmingham half marathon and raised more than £800 for Cure Leukaemia.

by Rob Smyth
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RELIEF, tiredness and delight were just three of things that I felt when I ran over the finishing line at the BUPA Birmingham half marathon.

While slowly walking to collect my medal and a drink of water, it started to sink in that I had just ran 13.1 miles in and around the second city in a time of what turned out to be one hour 49 minutes and 30 seconds.

After being asked to take part in the run, to support Cure Leukaemia, by my colleague Stephen after his wife, Katherine, was diagnosed with cancer and became the central point of a Mail campaign, I started to up my weekly runs to try to get ready for the big day on Sunday.

During my training, I completed the distance needed on several occasions but knew that on the day anything could happen.

So, with my running top on and trusty iPod ready to go, I ran across the start line at 11.01am along with nearly 20,000 other people.

I began to pace myself and was getting along fine but was glad to be handed a bottle of water at around three miles and later at seven miles.

The run headed out of Birmingham, past Cadbury in Bournville and Edgbaston cricket ground.

I was doing fine until my legs started to go at around 10 miles. It felt like running through quick sand but I didn't stop, powered through and was cheered over the line in Broad Street by thousands of spectators.

I finished 3,549th in the end.

The run was hard and my legs are still recovering but I enjoyed the experience and raised more than £800 for charity.

People can still donate at www.justgiving.com/Rob-Smyth

Read Katherine's latest diary entry on Page 12 of today's Mail.



DID YOU PUT ON YOUR RUNNING SHOES TO MAKE SOME CHARITY CASH?

Tell us all about it online at:

burtonmail.co.uk

Lung group could close

A SUPPORT group is in danger of closing down for good as its membership dwindles.

Breathe Easy Burton and District is the British Lung Foundation's local support group network.

Breathe Easy groups are open to everyone affected by lung conditions, including carers, family and friends.

Two years ago Breathe Easy started with around 15 members, but the numbers have dwindled to five and so its meeting this week could be its last.

Meetings take place at 1.30pm to 3pm every fourth Friday of the month, at The Beacon Hotel, in Tutbury Road, Burton.

The next one takes place this Friday.

Parking and refreshments are available and new members are always welcome to seek advice.

Further information is available by phoning the British Lung Foundation on 03000 030 555.



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Ill patients told to sign up for free flu vaccines

FREE flu jabs are not being taken advantage of by almost half of those most at risk as the number of 999 calls from flu sufferers continues to rise, according to health chiefs in South Derbyshire.

The South Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group has encouraged people who suffer severe asthma, diabetes or a chest or heart complaint to contact their GP for a free flu jab.

Each winter East Midlands Ambulance Service experiences an increase in the number of 999 calls, many of which are from people with existing health conditions but are also suffering with flu.

Pete Ripley, assistant

director of operations at the ambulance service, said: "Getting flu when you already have a health condition can be devastating to both your health and your family life.

"Unlike people with no underlying health condition who can treat themselves at home, often people suffering from flu with a long-term condition will need transporting into hospital for treatment.

"Not only is that upsetting for themselves and their loved ones but it's impossible for them to work or look after their kids when they're being treated in hospital.

"I urge anyone with a health condition to get the jab."