

News

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Arctic hero to join pupils for Trafalgar Day events

A former Norfolk soldier who led "Harry's heroes" on their trek to the Arctic is set to inspire school pupils during their Trafalgar Day celebrations next month.

Ed Parker, who co-founded the Walking with the Wounded charity, will be the star speaker at an event at Ormiston Victory Academy, in Costessey, on October 21. The celebrations, on the day Horatio Nelson and his men won the Battle of Trafalgar, will mark exactly one year since the school's official opening.

Rachel de Souza, principal at the academy, said: "Our links with Nelson and the Victory are something for Norfolk to be proud of. The values associated with them – the resilience, leadership and overcoming great trials through team work – are very pertinent today."

"Ed Parker captures that absolutely." Ex-Royal Green Jackets soldier Mr Parker, who now runs a wine merchants in Melton Constable, was one of seven men who completed a 200-mile unsupported trek to the North Pole in April.

The team, which included four wounded and amputee soldiers, including Capt Guy Disney of the Norfolk-based Light Dragoons, was joined for part of the expedition by Prince Harry.

Their courage and determination to complete the treacherous journey was documented in the



Flashback: The Walking with the Wounded team, with Ed Parker fifth from left, during the walk to the North Pole earlier this year.

television programme Harry's Arctic Heroes.

On October 21, Mr Parker will address students at Ormiston Victory during a speech day ceremony.

Mrs de Souza said Mr Parker agreed to speak at the school after being asked by friend, fellow former soldier, and academy governor Matt Fleming. She said: "He's going to give them inspiration, talk to them about what he and the other soldiers did. I think it will blow the kids away."

Pupils will then spend the rest of the day celebrating Trafalgar Day with events and activities – including a tug of war, a Victory-themed lunch menu and a chance to dress up as

Nelson. In the evening, the school will put on a firework display.

"Last year, 2,500 people from the community came. The kids will set up stalls and raise money for charity," said Mrs de Souza. "We're the Victory academy and we're really passionate about celebrating Trafalgar Day. In 2010 we chose it for our official launch day and we decided to celebrate it every year."

→ Do you have an education story? Call Victoria Leggett on 01603 772468 or email victoria.leggett@archant.co.uk

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Cheque boost for children's hospice

A south Norfolk children's hospice has received a financial boost, thanks to a donation from a Norwich businessman.

The East Anglia Children's Hospices (EACH) centre at Quidenham received £500, which will go to the refurbishment of its playroom, which last received a makeover 10 years ago.

The hospice was one of 18 East Anglian charities and community causes to have

benefited from £10,000 of cash awards given away by Norwich-based Almary Green Investments.

The fund was set aside by Carl Lamb, managing director of Almary Green, to mark his firm's 10th anniversary.

Julia Shirtcliffe, head of palliative care services at EACH Quidenham, said: "We are delighted to receive this donation and would like to thank all those involved.

"Play is a vital part of the care and support we provide to children and young people with life-threatening conditions and complex health care needs. This donation will certainly make a difference to the care and support we provide."

Mr Lamb said: "Life has treated me and my business extremely well and I think it is right to share some of that fortune – to make a difference in their lives."

Car treasure hunt

A car treasure hunt is being held in Postwick on Sunday.

The treasure hunt is limited to 12 cars, starting at 1.30pm from the village hall, and is expected to last around two hours.

It will cost £2.50 per person, with a maximum of four per car.

There will be a small prize for the winner and a barbecue.

→ Call Di Daniels on 01603 929712 for tickets.

Teen hurt in car crash

An 18-year-old woman suffered facial injuries and was taken to the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital yesterday morning after her Renault Clio hit a tree.

The accident happened at about 8.20am near Captain's Pond, Westwick, on the B1150.

A police spokesman said her injuries were not thought to be life-threatening or life-changing.

The road was closed for about an hour.

Accountant's contest

A Norwich accountant is hoping to dispel the myth that all in her trade are boring by competing in a nationwide talent contest.

Sharon Hunt, from Kaplan Financial, is going up against colleagues in the firm's version of Britain's Got Talent with her singing skills. The Trunch resident is hoping to secure a place in the online final with her rendition of Adele's Someone Like You.

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