

HEALTH

# Football club helps men kick cancer into touch

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A successful campaign which helped diagnose eight men with prostate cancer is returning to Burton in the hope of saving more lives.

Last year, staff at Queen's Hospital, in Burton, joined forces with a team at Burton Albion Football Club to host a series of screening events and health activities to raise awareness about the most common male cancer and to help diagnose men with the condition.

The campaign was a massive success with more than 100 men going along to the Pirelli Stadium to be examined, eight of whom were subsequently found to have cancer.

Tony Webster, 70, was one of the men who spoke to the Burton Mail after being prompted by the campaign to attend an examination, which led to further tests that revealed he had prostate cancer.

It came as a huge shock to Mr Webster and his wife of 52 years, Pauline, but after seeking the treatment he needed, Mr Webster was given the all-clear.

Mr Webster, who many will know from behind the bar at the Navigation Inn and Burton Albion's old Eton Park ground, said: "My brother-in-law had been diagnosed with prostate cancer a few years earlier, so when I read the

article I thought it was a good idea to be examined.

"I was told my prostate felt abnormal and after that I had a biopsy. Then Jyoti Shah, from Queen's Hospital, told me I had cancer."

As with Rod Gent and Elfyn Parry, whose survival stories also appeared in the Burton Mail, things happened very quickly from there for Mr Webster.

Within days he had been referred by Miss Shah, the consultant urologist at Queen's, to Alan Doherty, a surgeon at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Just two months after the screening, Mr Webster's prostate was removed.

He said: "It was all very quick from the diagnosis to the operation, but that is important when you have cancer. I can't fault anything about my treatment from start to finish. Everyone from Burton Albion, the Burton and Birmingham hospitals, my family and friends, were all brilliant - I can't thank everybody enough. It is really great, too, that the Burton Mail are highlighting this disease - thank you."

Both Mr and Mrs Webster now want to see screening made available to as many people as possible, and have urged men to take the opportunity available to them.

Mrs Webster, said: "I do think that men more so than women can perhaps feel a bit embarrassed about this kind of thing - but you have to get past that any way you can as



See video online: burtonmail.co.uk



Eddie Ford and David Woodburn at the last screening event, which proved to be a huge success. Above, Aimee Hassett, Sarah Minns and Jyoti Shah are all from Queen's Hospital, in Burton, and will be on hand at the prostate cancer screening event next week.

this can really save your life."

Since his operation, Mr Webster has officially been declared cancer free by his doctors and now Burton Albion Football Club is linking up with Queen's Hospital, once again, to offer the potential life-saving screening.

Jyoti Shah, consultant urological surgeon at the hospital, said: "Prostate cancer is the most common male cancer in the western world. The good news is that people tend to live with it rather than die because of it. This campaign is about raising awareness and dispelling the myths and about how we can help people who have to go through that journey.

"It is innovative working with a football club and it's the perfect way of reaching a large number of people who might not want to visit a doctor or a hospital, but may be more receptive to a health initiative through the football club they support in an environment they are familiar with."

The screenings, which are aimed at men aged 50 and over, are incredibly vital, something James Beeby, director of fund-raising at Prostate Cancer UK, wants to reiterate.

He said: "One man every hour dies from prostate cancer and it is the most common cancer in men, but we want to make prostate cancer a disease that the next generation

of men do not fear. We thank Burton Albion and Burton's Queen's Hospital for joining the fight."

Of all the eight men found to have cancer, none of them reported feeling unwell before the routine examination.

The next screening session will take place at the Pirelli Stadium in Princess Way on Thursday, March 30.

Slots are available from 8am until 5pm and any men who are interested in attending the free screening must book beforehand on 01283 593172.

Has the initiative inspired you to have a check-up? Have your say at burtonmail.co.uk

## COURT IN BRIEF



Cases heard recently before Southern Derbyshire magistrates

**Johann Maksymilian, 34, of Heenan Grove, Lichfield.**  
Admitted breaching a restraining order by approaching a woman in Burton on September 29. Made the subject of a 14-week prison sentence suspended for two years. Made the subject of a three-year restraining order. Ordered to pay a £115 victim surcharge. Previously denied the charge.

**Arshad Mahmood, 49, of Littleover Lane, Littleover.**  
Admitted stealing £1,940.52 in cash from Medina Dairy, in Station Road, Melbourne, between May 26 and June 14. Fined £200 and ordered to pay £1,940.50 in compensation, £200 court costs and a £30 victim surcharge. The court heard he had some personal difficulties but his employer lost nearly £2,000 and he told his employer he had been robbed.

**Shaun Fields, 37, of Church Green, Birmingham.**  
Admitted driving a Ford Connect van, in Main Street, Branston, on December 4, while banned and without insurance. Also admitted failing to provide a specimen of breath. Made the subject of a 12-month community order with 150 hours unpaid work. Ordered to pay £85 court costs and an £85 victim surcharge. Banned from driving for 12 months.

**Lee Wheatcroft, 31, of Eton Road, Burton.**  
Admitted causing £100 worth of damage to a wooden door frame and latch belonging to Extra Personnel in Burton on July 20. Made the subject of a 12-month conditional discharge. Ordered to pay £100 compensation, £85 court costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

**Kyle Atkinson, 24, of James Green Way, Lichfield.**  
Indicated a plea of guilty to possession of one gram of cocaine in Burton on February 12. Fined £400 with £85 court costs and a £40 victim surcharge.

COURT

# Thief spat at custody officer after his arrest

A 21-year-old man who went on a shoplifting spree before damaging his father's property and spitting at a custody officer has avoided an immediate jail sentence.

Jack Webster, of Welland Road, Hilton, appeared at Southern Derbyshire Magistrates' Court recently where he admitted criminal damage and two shoplifting offences.

He admitted damaging a window, a television and a bed frame belonging to his father at an address in Washford Road, Hilton, between January 17 and February 11.

He also admitted damaging a window at the same address between February 21 and 23, as well as admitting assaulting a custody officer on February 23.

Webster also admitted a string of shoplifting offences, including stealing meals and cigarettes from Tesco, in Witham Close, Hilton, on January 14; stealing scratch cards, a drink and a carrier bag worth £26.85 from Sainsbury's, in Derby, on January 19; and failing to attend court on February 28.

He has been made the sub-

ject of an 16-week prison sentence suspended for 12 months and will have to complete 100 hours unpaid work because the series of offences culminated in him spitting at a custody officer trying to do his job and he repeatedly damaged his father's property.

He was ordered to pay a £115 victim surcharge.

