

Mail says ...

Give backing to informal cancer checks

Like every other form of the disease, a diagnosis of prostate cancer can be devastating for everyone involved.

The news will come as a bitter blow, so any preventative measures that can be put in place to spot and deal with it as early as possible should be taken.

But, we all know men can be stubborn. It can be easy to ignore symptoms and hope they go away, but time is of the essence and catching it as early as possible can make a huge difference.

Hosting prostate screenings in a familiar and friendly environment like the Pirelli Stadium can help people feel at ease, and they are more likely to receive the screening, due to its informal nature.

The nurses and healthcare practitioners attend wearing less formal clothing than hospital uniform, and every effort is made to make sure people feel comfortable.

Events like those at the Pirelli Stadium, which help encourage men to come forward, should be applauded and backed, and used as an example to help screen other conditions and illnesses.

Publicising success stories such as that of Tony Webster, who has survived the condition and is now raising not only money, but awareness of the disease, is an invaluable step along the road to beating the illness and making sure as many people as possible get checked.

There are regular screening events, so for anybody looking for more information about these upcoming events can visit the dedicated website at <https://fightingprostatecancer.co.uk/>

No excuse for not buying car insurance

It is brilliant to see Staffordshire and West Midlands Police join forces to crackdown on uninsured drivers.

We all have to pay our bit to have our car legally on the road and it only seems fair other drivers should have to do the same too.

Staffordshire and West Midlands Police have already contacted 225 registered keepers driving an uninsured car and so far 69 per cent of those have re-insured their vehicles.

According to police, uninsured vehicles are 10 times more likely to be part of a drink-driving offence and conviction and six times more likely to be defective.

We hope this crackdown encourages more drivers to insure their vehicles to make our roads a safer place.

READER'S PICTURE



Mick Fradley of the Swadlincote Camera Club used his Nikon D750 with sigma 150-600 lens to capture this great crested grebe on the water at Willington Nature Reserve. To submit a picture of your own, email it to photographers@burtonmail.co.uk with full caption details.

HEALTH

Tony beats cancer – then raised £800 to help others

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A Burton prostate cancer survivor given the all-clear following an operation and a series of blood tests celebrated his clean bill of health by raising £800 towards fighting the disease.

Tony Webster, 71, was diagnosed with prostate cancer during his first screening session held at the Pirelli Stadium, which was organised by Inspire Health – Fighting Prostate Cancer, a group led by Jyoti Shah, a consultant urological surgeon at Queen's Hospital, in Burton.

The campaign aims to get more men checked for signs of the cancer, with screening held regularly at locations men typically feel more comfortable in, such as a football stadium.

In March 2016, Mr Webster, a father of four from Stretton, decided to attend one of the screenings, despite previously displaying no signs or symptoms of the condition.

He said: "I was told in April that I had cancer, and then by May I was going into hospital for the operation. It all went by very quick, I didn't really get chance to think about it, which was a good thing looking back!



Tony Webster, 71, has recently been given the all-clear from prostate cancer, which was detected when he attended a screening organised by Jyoti Shah, right, a consultant urological surgeon at Queen's Hospital.

"Everything was superb for me in hospital, all the way through. I've now had three, six-monthly blood tests and they've all come back negative, so it's all clear.

"Before the screening, I didn't think I had any symptoms at all but my brother-in-law has prostate cancer, and that's the only reasons that I went. I was shocked more than anything when I was diagnosed, I couldn't believe it when Miss Shah said it looked abnormal and that I needed a biopsy.

"Before I actually got to hospital, my wife asked if I was scared. I said 'absolutely not, I'm petrified!' But when you walk through the doors and the nurses come up to you, you just feel so relaxed, they look after you. And that applies for Burton as well, it's always been spot on, I cannot fault anything."

Mr Webster underwent his operation at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, in Birmingham, and following three blood tests, which returned with negative results when testing for the disease over the last 18 months, he has now been given the all-clear by health care professionals.

To celebrate, Mr Webster decided to give back and held a fund-raiser for the prostate screening fund.

On Friday, October 20, 114 people attended Eton Park

social club, where £800 was raised through dancing and a live music performance from 60s band, Past Hits, and a charity raffle.

Mr Webster made a passionate speech about his experience with prostate cancer, in the hope of getting more men to sign up and get checked.

Jyoti Shah, consultant urological surgeon at Queen's Hospital, runs Inspire Health, and said fund-raising efforts from people like Mr Webster helped to make their services available to even more patients.

She said: "We have a dedicated fund held in the hospital so it's a charitable fund but it's just for prostate screening work, like when we picked Mr Webster up, all of the money that comes into that helps facilitate more of the same.

"We don't charge people for it, but the money that we raise gets fed into the fund to enable us to do more of the same and get to more people and continue raising awareness and to continue reaching out to the population.

"With this case, it was such an early diagnosis and we have managed to cure Mr Webster of his cancer and he's doing really well.

"We've just had the official clinic consultation, and he's absolutely fine."

Miss Shah said the progress Inspire Health had made since its first screening in March, 2016 had been "fantastic".

She said: "It's just grown and grown, I had no idea when we started this project that it would become so big and successful. To date we've picked up 27 men with cancer and we're still waiting on some results.

"We've seen nearly 600 men by now. Our premise has always been that we go where men are comfortable, we know they don't want to go to hospital, it's threatening and intimidating and impersonal, and that's the same with any hospital or health professional.

"When we go to places like the football club, it's less threatening. It just makes people more relaxed, and we dress differently, to make it all less threatening. We'll go wherever people feel comfortable."

Mr Webster, a life-long Burton Albion supporter, agreed: "If I saw there was a screening at the hospital, I would think twice about it, but when it was at Burton Albion, I thought I'd rather go there."

Anybody looking for more information about upcoming screening events can visit the dedicated website <https://fightingprostatecancer.co.uk/>