

## Focus on peace through forgiveness

FORGIVENESS is a powerful tool that can bring an end to the cycle of revenge and retribution.

That's the theme of a peace day conference organised by the South East Hants Peace Council to be held at the Sustainability Centre on Droxford Road, East Meon, on July 16.

'Peace Through Reconciliation' will feature speakers Marina Cantacuzino, from the Forgiveness Project, and Henry Metelmann, an ex-German soldier, who now works as a peace activist.

The day starts at 10am, and includes a bring-and-share lunch, workshops and a plenary session. Registration is £5.

Please contact Vida Henning at [vida@green-cottage.ndo.co.uk](mailto:vida@green-cottage.ndo.co.uk) or ring Maureen on 023-9237 6773 for details.

## Co-op link nets extra funds for hall project

IMAGINE a scenario in which your church was given some money every time locals used a shop loyalty card.

That's the reality in Emsworth, where a generous offer from the local Co-op store is likely to net thousands of pounds for a refurbishment project.

The link came about because the store's management wanted to sponsor

a local community project - and the parish hall refurbishment at St James's Church was voted the most deserving cause.

The hall is used all day, every day by community groups, including parents and toddlers, youth organisations and the retired.

The £70,000 project aims to refurbish it to make it more attractive for the 21st century.

Disabled access, a new fascia and new windows have already been fitted. The hall will close during July and August so that its toilets can be re-fitted, more flexible staging installed and a suspended ceiling created. The hall will also be re-decorated and its heaters replaced.

Then the kitchen will be updated to make the hall more attractive for chil-

dren's parties and special family occasions.

The vicar, the Rev Simon Sayers, said: "Nothing had been done to the hall since the 1920s, when it was built. It is structurally sound, but it is used every day and this refurbishment needs to be done.

"The local Co-op was being refurbished, so they offered to sponsor a proj-

ect to benefit the community. There is a lot of goodwill towards the church in Emsworth, as nearly all the voluntary groups here seem to be run by the church, so the parish hall project won the vote easily.

"It means each time someone spends £1 on their loyalty card, we receive a few pence. We expect a few thousand pounds to come our way out of that link."

# Everest challenge for father and son



Liphook Reader Ian MacCuaig and his son Ian. The pair are now preparing physically and financially to tackle Everest in 2006

LIPHOOK Reader Neil MacCuaig and his son Ian will aim for the top of the world next year.

The pair are preparing to trek to the base camp of Everest in Nepal as part of a 17-day trip to raise money for the Naomi House Children's Hospice in September 2006.

Neil, 47, and Ian, 16, will be walking for six to eight hours a day at heights of between 4,000 and 5,500 metres, an altitude where they will suffer from lack of oxygen. They are already preparing financially and physically for the grueling ordeal.

The hospice, near Winchester, provides respite and terminal care for children up to the age of 18 whose illnesses mean they are unlikely to reach adulthood. The specially-built hospice

receives no funding and relies on people's generosity.

Neil, who runs a firm that designs railway maintenance equipment, said: "I've got two healthy teenage lads. I'm so very grateful that they have never needed the type of care that the Naomi House Hospice provides. It's my way of trying to support parents who have gone through so much more than I have.

"Everyone has been tremendously supportive of our effort so far. We hope that other people in the area will also be generous. Even a few pounds will make a huge difference and will mean that Naomi House can continue their invaluable work supporting so many families."

Ian, who will just be 18 when he goes on the trek, wants to give something back to the community before going on to university. He already helps lead the church's Crusader group for seven to 11-year-olds, is an FA qualified referee and performs with the Haslemere Thespians.

He said: "I want to see the world, and if I can raise money for charity at the same time then that's great."

The pair will also take part in sponsored activities between now and next September to help reach their target of £5,000 for Naomi House. The events include bike rides, sponsored swim, car boot sale, perhaps a dinner and raffle. They will also prepare physically with bike riding, walking and swimming.

You can sponsor Neil and Ian by sending cheques payable to Neil MacCuaig or Naomi House to the church office, The Ark, Portsmouth Road, Liphook, Hants, GU30 7DJ. Or you could do so via the website, which means the money goes directly to Naomi House - and it enables you to gift aid it. Go to [www.justgiving.com/ebc2006](http://www.justgiving.com/ebc2006) and click 'sponsor me now'.

Anyone who would like more details, or who can help with sponsorship or event organising can contact Neil on [neil@maccuaig.net](mailto:neil@maccuaig.net) or 07740 487207.

## Tractor man leads farming prayers

IT'S not the first time the Rev Graham Morris has been on a tractor - but it might be the oddest!

The rural affairs adviser for the Isle of Wight held a service at St John the Baptist Church, Northwood, to mark Rogationtide and celebrate island farming.

Instead of the traditional 'beating the bounds' ritual of walking along parish boundaries, they brought the fields and byways into church. There was a plough, roots and fruit, a bale of hay - and a tractor.

Prayers were also said for the work of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, which works among the farming community.



The Rev Graham Morris on board the Ferguson T20 tractor

**Pompey Chimes**

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 2005 EDITION: Monday 8 August (NB: There is no separate August edition)

AVAILABLE FOR PARISHES TO COLLECT FROM DEANERY DEPOTS: Thursday 25 August

AVAILABLE IN YOUR CHURCH: Sunday 28 August

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