

# Brentwood Recorder

Friday September 16, 2011

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70p

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## Life in The Blitz: war diaries published

P4



## Taking plunge for charity

P38-39

## Charity seeks help to tackle OAP isolation

A popular charity dedicated to tackling loneliness and isolation among older people is urgently looking for volunteers in Brentwood to spare a few hours a month.

Contact the Elderly aims to relieve the acute loneliness of elderly people by organising monthly Sunday tea parties.

Each elderly guest is collected from their home by a volunteer driver and taken to a host's home, but the Brentwood group is suffering from a shortage of drivers.

Linda Braeburn from the group said: "Anyone who can spare a couple of hours one Sunday a month, has a driving licence, a car and a capacity for drinking tea is eligible! It's not a big commitment and our volunteers genuinely get as much out of the experience as our older guests."

■ Anyone willing to get involved should call Linda on (01279) 417 264 or email linda.braeburn@contact-the-elderly.org.uk

## No boundary woes for MP

Brentwood MP Eric Pickles looks set to escape any difficulties from the Boundary Commission's review of parliamentary constituencies.

Under Conservative proposals to cut the number of MPs from 650 to 600, Brentwood and Ongar will only be slightly changed, taking in one solidly Conservative ward from Thurrock and losing another solidly Tory one to Epping Forest.

The proposals are subject to a consultation which ends in December.

Neighbouring borough Havering does see bigger changes.

See page 2



■ Ernie Clark, who has passed away at the age of 84, at Hopefield Animal Sanctuary last year with Cara the horse

# Animal sanctuary founder mourned

## Tributes paid to Ernie Clark after he dies from cancer

by Ian Weinfass  
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» Tributes to the founder of Brentwood's Hopefield Animal Sanctuary have been pouring in after he died on Sunday.

Ernie Clark, 84, who set up the charity with his wife Paula in the 1980s, passed away just over a year after being diagnosed with cancer.

A sanctuary statement said: "Ernie was a truly inspirational character who will be sorely missed, but we are determined to continue the work that Ernie and his wife Paula started back in 1983."

Actor Brian Blessed, a patron of the sanctuary, said: "They should build a statue of him. I always feel that someone like Ernie is not dead, he will go on living. I think he's put a smile on God's face."

### 'Relentless mission'

Another patron, singer Leona Lewis, said: "I was so sad to hear of Ernie's passing and my thoughts and prayers go to all his family and friends."

"Through getting involved with Hopefield Animal Sanctuary I have learnt how many animals' and peoples' lives Ernie and Paula have touched.

"Their passion, dedication, care and relentless mission to help save abused and neglected animals is so inspiring."

Ernie started caring for animals in the 1980s after he and Paula saw horses stranded on Rainham Marshes.

His son Lee, 51, said: "He was very passive, never violent or angry. Even talking to his neighbours earlier, they were saying he was such a gentleman."

Ernie died at his Pilgrims Hatch home on Sunday with Lee by his side.

After his diagnosis last year Ernie told the Recorder: "I'm not scared of

death. I've had a good innings. When I look back at everything we've done, me Paula and all those people who have helped along the way, I feel proud."

Ernie and Paula, who died in 2009, were awarded MBEs for services to animal welfare in 2008, and earlier this year Ernie received Brentwood Council's Lifetime Achievement Award.

His funeral takes place next Wednesday, with the procession making its way from the sanctuary to Corbets Tey Crematorium for 1.20pm. A wake will be held at the sanctuary afterwards.

## Lott of joy for Pixie

Brentwood's Pixie Lott scored the third number one of her career at the weekend.

Her single *All About Tonight* hit the top of the charts, having sold more than 88,000 copies.

It follows her first single *Mama Do*, which went straight to number one in June 2009, and *Boys and Girls*, which hit the top spot in September that year.

The 20-year-old said on Twitter: "Still can't believe *All About Tonight* was number 1! You cats are the bestest. Couldn't ask for more, happiest girl in the world today!"



■ Pixie Lott

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