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NEWS

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Table top fundraiser

THERE'LL be something for everyone at St Joseph's table top sale in aid of motor neurone disease.

Buyers of all ages and wallet sizes will be in their element with gifts, toys, good-as-new, bric-a-brac and home-made cakes on offer.

The sale is at the Gardenia Avenue parish centre from 11am on Saturday, November 19.

Get to grips with finance

THE University of Bedfordshire is helping students understand changes to higher education finance at an event on Monday.

The event is taking place as part of Student Finance Day, which is coordinated by the Independent Task Force on Student Finance. A series of information drop-in sessions will be held between 4pm and 6pm on the third floor of the university's new Luton Campus Centre.

Plenty of smiles at awards night

by Sally-Anne Stewart

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UNSUNG community heroes were honoured at a glittering ceremony on Friday night.

The Community Awards, which took place at the new Venue Central function suite in Leagrave, showcased all of the excellent work being done in Luton by individuals, organisations and community groups.

The first award of the night – Lifetime Achievement – went to Glyn Morgan, for his work with Vauxhall pensioners, visiting them in their homes and delivering Christmas hampers, despite being over 90 himself.

The winners of the Improving Lives award were staff and students from Luton Sixth Form College for a project which saw them raising £22,000 and collecting 2,000 books for children in Uganda affected by HIV and Aids, while the Young Hero award went to boxer Jordan Reynolds.

Other winners included Keech



COMMUNITY SPIRIT: Sukh Saini (far right) with Crescent Summer School organisers

Hospice Care volunteer David Rigg, who was named Charity Champion, and British Transplant Games champion Otilie Morgan, who received the Sports Person of the Year Award.

The Crescent Summer School was named overall winner on the night for the four-week educational and recreational scheme it runs each year.

Sukh Saini, partner at legal firm Pictons, main sponsors of the event,

said: "It was a fantastic event which highlighted so many great people who make such an important contribution to Luton and its diverse communities."

"The Community Awards are a celebration of the extraordinary achievements which happen on a daily basis in our community."

The night also saw a raffle in aid of the Luton & Dunstable Hospital's neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU) appeal raise thousands of pounds.

Firefighters deal with factory chemical spill

FORTY firefighters were called to deal with a chemical leak at a Luton sandwich factory on Saturday morning.

The incident occurred at Hain Celestial's premises (formerly Daily Bread Ltd) in Britannia Estates, Leagrave Road, when a quantity of sodium hypochlorite leaked from a container, at around 8.30am.

Five fire appliances and a number of specialist support vehicles from Bedfordshire and Luton Fire and Rescue Services (BLFRS) were sent to the scene, together with the ambulance service and police.

Workers in the sandwich making plant and adjacent factory units on Britannia Estate were evacuated and Leagrave Road was closed as emergency crews arrived to deal with the spillage. No local residents were evacuated.

Representatives from the Environment Agency and Thames Water also attended the scene.

However, firefighters wearing chemical protection suits and breathing apparatus quickly contained the spillage, limiting the quantity of chemical entering the water courses, isolated the drains and diluted the leakage to safe levels. Fire crews used special pumping equipment to recover the sodium hypochlorite that had leaked – thought to be about 400 litres.

The incident was declared under control by 10.30am.