

## In Brief

## Black sheep rescued but who does it belong to?

**EAST YORKS:** He may be the black sheep of the family but is desperate to find his way back home.

Police rescued a frightened black sheep that was running along a busy road in Rawcliffe, near Goole.

Now they are trying to reunite the woolly wanderer with its owner.

The police received a number of calls from members of the public on Monday, who were concerned for its safety.

A spokesman said: "We managed to capture the sheep, but there is a problem tracing the owner."

"Its identity tag relates to North Yorkshire but there is nothing linking it to any farmer, flock or farm."

"The sheep could have been stolen, or recently sold, and that is why the tag does not correspond to a flock in this area."

Anyone with information about the owner is asked to call police on 0845 6060222.

## Plea to support elderly

**EAST YORKS:** Civic leaders are being urged to continue their support for vulnerable residents in the wake of financial cutbacks.

Councillor Richard Stead will introduce the special motion at a full meeting of East Riding Council next week.

He wants the council to recognise that many vulnerable residents, especially the elderly, are deeply concerned about their future care and support.

Councillor Stead said: "A lot of our residents are very worried following publicity about financial cuts in public sector budgets."

"In view of this I want councillors to reaffirm our priorities and continue to include the provision of support and care for our vulnerable residents."

"This is vital in promoting their independence, well being, care and quality of life."

He also wants the council to strengthen the integration of its services with the NHS, GPs and other partners, to achieve its priorities.

The meeting is at County Hall, Beverley, on Wednesday at 2pm.

## Your news

Preston's Eighth Annual Christmas Tree Festival will take place at All Saints' Church. The church will be open each weekend before Christmas from 1pm to 4pm, after the switching on lights family service on Thursday, December 2, at 7pm.

Publish your community news for FREE. Tel 01482 315261 or e-mail [yournews@mailnewsmedia.co.uk](mailto:yournews@mailnewsmedia.co.uk)

## Red tape for green cash

**EAST YORKS:** Farmers and landowners will have to tick more boxes for environmental friendliness to get green payments.

That is the message from a new discussion document on reform of the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

East Yorkshire farmers have joined government stewardship schemes, which pays them to care for the countryside.

Reforms of the CAP mean they will have to be even more greener if they want to continue to receive the payments.

Peter Kendall, National Farmers' Union president, said the move could lead to confusion that would suit no one.

## Bishop of Hull drops in

**BISHOP BURTON:** The Bishop of Hull, the Rt Rev Richard Frith, visited the village for a special service.

He licensed the Rev Angela Bailey as priest-in-charge at All Saints Church, as the parish has been without a vicar for some time.

Wednesday's service was also an opportunity for villagers to meet the Bishop and see the redecorated church.

## Grant for community

**NORTH DALTON:** The village hall committee has won an £8,000 grant towards the refurbishment of the community building.

The money for North Dalton, near Driffield, was awarded from Waste Recycling Group Ltd's landfill communities fund.

## Behind the headlines

## 'It's hard to accept the kids were in daily pain'

He carried out life-changing dentistry at a school in Morocco. Chris Branfield tells Health Reporter **Katy Wood** he will never forget the experience

**PULLING out tooth after tooth, dentist Chris Branfield began to realise the scale of the problem.**

As night fell, he had helped to remove 200 rotten teeth from 50 children in a Moroccan school after they had spent years in pain, living with infections that had never been treated.

Chris said: "From what we saw in that area of north east Morocco, I was absolutely taken aback by the magnitude and severity of the dental decay problem."

"With one girl, I took ten teeth out. That was only one side of her mouth and she needed them all taking out."

Chris, 40, was one of four dentists who travelled to the country to treat youngsters from the Berber Tribe in El Jebha, a small port town in the Rif Mountains. He is one of the founding trustees of a new charity that is being set up to increase the role dentists can play in charity work in remote parts of the world.

Chris thought the main problem to tackle would be gingivitis – inflammation of the gums surrounding the teeth. But the amount of dental decay affecting the children left him shocked and concerned.

"One member of the team got so emotional, she cried and had to leave," said Chris, owner and principal dentist at Castle Park Dental Care in Cottingham.

"She had never seen so much dental neglect in her life. We had to dig deep, try and rally the troops and crack on with it."

"I only saw it up close on the children. But you didn't have to be a dentist to see the people walking around with missing teeth and big black holes. In my practice here, I don't see that and I have not seen decay like that for years."

"We saw kids that had infections and pain and they had no one to see about it. There is one doctor for 50,000 people and they don't have a dentist in that area."

Chris and the team handed out toothbrushes and toothpaste and left puppets at the school to use as characters in dental education.



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Chris Branfield



**VITAL WORK:** Dentist Chris Branfield has been doing dental work in Morocco. Left, Chris with a child from the Berber tribe.

Supported by an established charity in Morocco, they set up three stations at the school – one for dental education, another for assessment and a third for extraction.

"There was a language barrier, so we were reliant on the Moroccan team to explain," said Chris, a father-of-two. "We tried to keep good humour and give a lot of tender loving care. There was a lot of gesturing and the kids responded to that. When they left, I always shook their hand or gave them a hug."

Chris believes the key to tackling the problem is through dental education and raising awareness of the importance of dental hygiene.

He said: "The place to start is with the kids and the education to try and stop it happening to their teeth and future generation's teeth as well."

"I would love to go back to help the adults. But you have to pick a place to start and the best place is with the kids."

"In extreme circumstances, there are incidences where people have left dental abscesses and they go untreated. That can lead to a bone infection and septicaemia and you can die."

"A lot of these kids were in daily pain and that is difficult to accept. You have to switch off – the goal is to remove the tooth and try your best to be detached."

It's an experience he'll never forget. Chris is planning to return to El Jebha next year and hopes to be accompanied by a bigger team and more equipment to enable them to treat more children.

"I get emotional just thinking about it," said Chris. "I have friends and colleagues for life now. I found out a lot about myself."

"It was a life-changing experience and it has really enforced my reason for being."

"Treating 50 kids is a drop in the ocean. But it is a start and it's something we can carry on. It will stay with me forever."

## Fundraising support for health mission has been overwhelming

CHRIS and his colleagues are aiming to establish a charity to build on their work in Morocco.

They are trying to raise £5,000 to register the charity before bringing in more health professionals to help.

Chris said: "Wages over

there are not very high and education is the key.

"We are trying to find a nurse to go into the school to carry on the education and a dental health professional to go in every three months. But we have to raise £5,000 to establish the charity."

Chris said the support the group received from patients at his Cottingham practice was overwhelming.

He said: "I'm so very grateful to the good people of Cottingham, Hull, the rest of the East Riding and beyond for their donations."

"They have been absolutely great."

"We have raised about £300 in the practice alone."

To find out more about the team's mission to treat the Berber Tribe, visit [www.berbertribe2010.org](http://www.berbertribe2010.org) or [www.castleparkdental.co.uk](http://www.castleparkdental.co.uk)