



Man up in aid of...



OctoBeardfest

All the Duke's men ready to let it grow in battle against cancer

Prostate Project's OctoBeardfest campaign gathers pace as more pubs sign up

by James Watkins

THE Prostate Project's OctoBeardFest is picking up at considerable pace with a further 74 pubs signing up to the campaign since last week and the list is expected to grow.

One of the first pubs to jump on board and rally men who are willing to ditch their razors is the Duke of Cambridge in Tilford.

The pub is part of the Red Mist Leisure group, which includes the Queens Head in East Clandon, The Stag on the River in Eashing and The Exchequer in Crookham, all of which have also pledged allegiance to the campaign.

Mark Robson, one of the



owners of the Duke of Cambridge, said the reason they signed up was because they work very closely with the Hogs Back Brewery in Tongham, who have chosen the Prostate Project as their charity of the year.

"They mentioned the appeal to us and we said we would be delighted to get involved and help them out," Mr Robson said. "We share



The team at Knauf UK with their beards in 2011

'It's fun, very visual and very easy to do'

ONE of the sponsors of OctoBeardFest has spoke of how successful it can be as two years ago his company raised £10,000 for the prostate project by relaxing their shaving habits.

Ian Stokes, who is son of Colin Stokes, the chairman of the Prostate Project, is managing director of Knauf UK, and along with his colleagues will be growing a beard throughout October for the appeal.

This year he is hoping the team can go even bigger with the money raised compared to two years ago, and said that was great fun, very visual and very easy to do.

"It does work because it is so visual that it is quite clear that everyone knows what is going on," Mr Stokes said.

"Prostate cancer is something either you have been directly effected by or know someone who has. It is really not difficult to get people to support it."

"It is good fun and we will finish with a flourish at the end of October, and with some relief!"

He said it is simple to just ask five mates to give £5 each for the cause, but he is sure lots of people will raise more.

"Even if you get the £25, that is a great contribution."

"We are having a go at raising a five figure sum and hoping for around 100 people to grow beards."

"It is a great idea that the Prostate Project have come up with. It is really important that it is talked about and people take some action."

their desire to raise some money.

"We have got about 20 or 25 people, myself included, with a mixture of staff, customers and directors of the company."

Mr Robson said that it was a great visual way of supporting the charity, as when customers ask why they have grown beard, he cannot only explain the cause, but in doing so raise awareness of the illness and the Prostate Project.

"We are obviously keen to support it, but at the same time it is a bit of fun," Mr Robson said.

"We are taking it in quite a light-hearted way. It is just a nice way for people to engage

with it, to have fun and raise money.

"Even though we are fairly a destination pub being slightly outside of Tilford, being part of the appeal demonstrates we are a pillar of the community and we can get involved in anything to do with the local community."

"That is the backbone of what our pub is about. We take that role as part of that very seriously."

Tim Sharp, trustee of the Prostate Project who is running the appeal, said: "I am bowled over by the support we are getting from Surrey pubs and others.

"Fundraising is tough these days but this simple, fun appeal that doesn't cost

anyone more than a fiver is really taking off."

"Every pub we visit is keen to take it on. Since last weeks edition we have signed up 54 more pubs and the list is growing every day."

For those who want to take part in the fundraiser, there are three simple rules: stop shaving on Monday September 30, do not pick up the razor again until Friday November 1, and ask five people to sponsor at least £5 each.

Anyone wanting to donate can either text OCTO53 followed by the amount of money they want to give, starting 5, to 70070, visit www.justgiving.com/OctoBeardfest13 or set up their own fundraising website.



The Prostate Project's Tim Sharp, left, with Duke of Cambridge manager Alex Fellowes-Freeman, right, and staff members Tom Harman and Simon Lamb. Picture: Alistair Wilson. Ref: SA135645_2

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Raging Bull hits Guildford

RUGBY players and fashion are not often linked together but in the case of legendary ex England international Phil Vickery it has been a surprisingly successful combination.

Nicknamed the 'Raging Bull' in his playing days by rugby supremo Sir Clive Woodward for his rampaging feats on the field it was the perfect name for his clothing label which has just arrived at House of Fraser in Guildford.

Born in Cornwall, Phil grew up on a farm and became a qualified cattle inseminator.

He retired from rugby two years ago due to injury so has been able to devote more time to Raging Bull. He also took part in Celebrity MasterChef where he showed a surprisingly deft touch in the kitchen and

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came from behind in the race to scoop the coveted title.

Phil is heading to Guildford on Saturday October 19 to meet with fans and customers, so if you are around and fancy having your picture taken with a rugby legend, pop into the store at 11.30am.

With strong local clubs such as Guildford RFC thriving there is keen support for rugby in the area and this is a town that certainly knows its rucks from its mauls.

However even if you are not a sports fan there is plenty to enthuse about in the collection.

Look out for the ultra fine knitwear in great shades of raspberry and forest green as well

as the on trend check shirts with contrast trims on the cuffs.

Hoodies and rugby shirts all feature the iconic bull logo and the autumn collection features this season's must have - a tweed jacket.

Phil is still very involved in the label and although not quite designing the clothes he is passionate about the quality and customer service the brand offers.

"Rugby gave me so much as a sport and some of that I have taken into my business. I still get excited when I see someone wearing Raging Bull and hopefully when I visit Guildford in October I will spot someone around town in one of my tops."



**Meet Rugby Legend
Phil Vickery MBE**

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The Raging Bull clothing range has just arrived at House of Fraser in Guildford.