

Everyone's a winner as the best businesses announced

Pro-European primary vote



Picture perfect: A snapshot of some of the highlights from the annual business awards ceremony

Pictures on the night by PFT Photography and Vicki Sharp Photography

THE great and good of the borough's business community gathered to celebrate a

year of successes. The Richmond Business Awards, in association with

the RTT, took place at the RFU where winners across 13 categories were announced.

• For details of who won what, check out our special supplement starting on page

17. And for a gallery of more photos from the night, go to rttimes.co.uk.

Pupils the healthiest

By Craig Richards

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PRIMARY school children in Richmond upon Thames are among the healthiest in the country, with the borough having the lowest proportion of overweight or obese year six and reception children in the country.

Just 5.1 per cent of reception children in the borough were obese, and although the figure more than doubled to 11 per cent for year six children, this was still the lowest nationwide, according to the NHS' National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

Still, Richmond council confirmed there are more than 3,000 overweight or obese children in the borough.

Nationally, just under a fifth (14.7 per cent) of primary school starters were overweight or obese. In year six it was more than a quarter (28.5 per cent), as childhood obesity figures hit an all-time high.

The NCMP is annual assessment of childhood obesity. Height and weight measurements are collected from children in reception (aged four to five years) and year six (aged 10 to 11 years), primarily in state schools in England.

Cllr Lisa Blakemore, Richmond Council Cabinet Member for Public Health, said: "It is good that all our hard work to combat childhood obesity is paying off. We know that carrying excess bodyweight can affect an individual's quality of life and health. By supporting children and families to stay healthy, it will help reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes and strokes later in life."

"We have a number of programmes in place to encourage young people and their families to make the right nutritional choices and stay active. We have some of the most active young people in the UK - with thousands of

youngsters taking part in sporting activities on a regular basis.

"We still have a lot of work to do and will continue to work towards ensuring that every child is as healthy and active as possible."

The figures, released by the NHS this week, prompted Alison Cox, Cancer Research UK's director of prevention, to call for the government to ban all pre-watershed adverts for junk food - not just during children's programming.

The government released its childhood obesity plan in August, which included measures such as a sugar tax and reducing the amount of sugar in junk food.

Ms Cox said: "Our nation has hit a devastating record high for childhood obesity."

"The trend over the last decade is showing no signs of slowing down, and this worrying news is something that could have been prevented with more government action."

The NHS study concluded that there was a correlation between high obesity figures and levels of higher deprivation.

Obesity prevalence for children living in the most deprived areas in both age groups was more than double that of those living in the least deprived areas.

IN an attempt to field only one pro-EU candidate against Zac Goldsmith in the Richmond Park byelection an independent group will hold a primary vote - although none of the candidates have signed up yet.

Common Ground, founded in the wake of the June referendum, will aim to "defeat hard Brexit" by getting constituents to vote for a single candidate in the election ahead of time.

Each candidate has been invited to speak at an event, on November 20, although constituents can post their ballots online from November 9. However, none of the candidates have confirmed their attendance or said they would step aside should they lose.

Labour candidate Christian Wolmar said he did not see there to be "common ground" between himself and Liberal Democrat Sarah Olney, in that only he would vote to block the government triggering Article 50 unless more information about Brexit negotiations was made public.

He said: "We think it is unfair if (the Liberal Democrats) expected us to step down for them."

"If they wanted to field just one candidate between us they could have contacted us."

"We then may have been able to put up someone we both agreed on. But they didn't."

The third pro-EU candidate is Independent Fiona Syms, ex-wife of government whip Robert Syms.

Alert after CO2 leak

FIREFIGHTERS made sure a rabbit was able to have an operation to remove an abscess despite a carbon monoxide leak next door at Homebase in North Sheen.

Oreo the rabbit was due to go under the knife when customers next door complained of feeling unwell at about 1.20pm.

Firefighters carried out a systematic search of the premises and used detection equipment to find any elevated readings. This included making sure that no toxic fumes were located in the veterinary surgery.

A woman was taken to hospital by London Ambulance Service crews. A further 30 people evacuated the hard-

ware store before the Brigade arrived.

Station manager Dave Bulbrook said: "Fire crews carried out a complete search of the building and found no elevated readings."

"We made sure that vets next door could carry out the operation on Oreo the rabbit and it looks like the procedure was a success."

Carbon monoxide gas is toxic to humans when encountered in concentrations above 35 parts per million.

Firefighters from Richmond, Kingston, Euston and Forest Hill were all called to deal with the leak, and the area was reopened shortly before 4pm.

Exchange long friendship

TEDDINGTON School is celebrating the 40th year in a row they have welcomed students from a German school.

Pupils from Geschwister Scholl-Schule school in Konstanz will spend a week with the family of their Teddington pen pal this month.

The exchange has also seen hundreds of Teddington students travel to south Germany, with the latest group spending a week there last June.

It was started in 1976 by the two schools to allow pupils experience other cultures and styles of education.

Teddington art teacher and former pupil Dave Reuben was among one of the first group to make the trip.

He said: "It was truly an incredible week. It really stands out as one of my favourite memories of my time at Teddington."

"Although the culture is not dissimilar at the time it all felt so strange and new. I got on really well with my pen friend Sylvia and her family."

"It's wonderful that the children I am now teaching get those same opportunities I had all those years ago."



European ties: German pupils have been coming for 40 years

Help find missing cat

POPPY a black and white cat from Townshend Terrace in North Richmond, has been missing since Saturday, Oc-

tober 29.

Have any residents spotted her? If anyone has then contact 07852 251 597.

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