

In the stocks

NURSING home proprietor Barry Chambers will be in the stocks to help raise cash for residents.

The Bankwood home on Duffield Bank, Duffield is holding an open day on May 17 to celebrate the official opening of a new extension.

And Mr Chambers has offered to be pelted with wet sponges so more money can be raised for a £1,000 pressure-relieving mattress.

The event will feature a number of stalls and runs from 2pm to 6pm.

Forced into ditch

POLICE are searching for the driver of a red Lotus sports car which allegedly forced another car into a ditch on Saturday.

They say the Lotus was involved in several dangerous overtaking manoeuvres while travelling towards Derby on the B5023 at Windley.

A Peugeot 205 travelling in the opposite direction was badly damaged after landing in the ditch.

Driver Andrew Stoll (28) of Derby escaped injury after the accident between the Puss in Boots pub and Windley village at 5.55pm.

Officers are still searching for the Lotus driver. They say the car had personalised number plates.

Witnesses or anyone with information can contact PC Flockton on (01332) 290100.

Awareness week

LADY Winifred Hilton is backing ME Awareness Week, which runs until Monday.

As patron of the ME Derbyshire Group, the Idridgehay Lady will be guest of honour at a lunch in the Park pub, Chaddesden today (Wednesday).

Carnival queen

GEMMA Powdrill (14) will be the Carnival Queen for Heage's 21st anniversary event.

Gemma, along with her attendants Kim Johnson (10), Jay Peplow (9), Lucy Ottowell (8), and Emma Curtis, was chosen at a disco in the village primary school.

They will now grace the royal float on carnival day, June 28.

Fire file

FIREFIGHTERS extinguished a house blaze at Farnborough Gardens, Allestree early on Sunday.

No-one was injured in the fire at 4.15am but four officers from Kingsway and Nottingham Road in Derby searched the house in breathing apparatus.

It was believed to have started in a rear bedroom.

Later the same day at 5.30pm a rubbish fire in a skip behind the TSB Bank on King Street, Belper was extinguished by the town's firefighters.

They also combined with Crich officers at 8.05pm on Friday when a ventilation shaft caught fire at the Maharaj Restaurant on New Road, Belper.

Legless Loonies were out for the count

MONSTER Raving Loonies were thrown out of the West Derbyshire General Election count because they were drunk.

Candidate Nick Delves says he and 14

others had five pints each in a pub before the count at Matlock.

But at 3am they were told to leave by the returning officer and escorted out by police.

Labour candidate Steve Clamp said: "I'm all for them being involved but you've got

to know where to draw the line.

"They were jumping about and shouting, upsetting people. They over-stepped the mark. It's a shame because they bring life and colour and vibrancy to the whole affair."

Mr Delves (32) of Vicarage Lane, Duffield says one of his party picked up a ballot paper from a count table. One box had to be re-counted.

"I think they were perfectly right to throw us out and I feel apologetic about it all," he added.

"We'd had a little bit too much to drink and a couple of members of our party were just a little bit rowdy. In retrospect it was a bad idea to go to the pub beforehand."

Abyss

Mr Delves said he felt he was in the "political abyss" after losing his £500 deposit and polling 281 votes.

Next time, he says, he'll secure 50.5 per cent of the vote — instead of 0.5 per cent.

He's pictured (right) with Monster Raving Loonies Edward Thonlinson and JJ. BN5184



New memorial dedicated

DOZENS of Duffield folk attended a service to dedicate a new memorial to those who died in two world wars.

The names of all who died are recorded on a plaque at Wirksworth Road Corner.

At the service on Saturday an address was given by David Turquand, secretary of the Royal British Legion's Duffield branch.

Chairman John Cash and parish council chairman Jim Rigg unveiled the plaque and the Rev David Wilkinson led prayers.

The war memorial erected near the parish church in 1921 will still be the venue for the service on Remembrance Day in November.

Mr Turquand is pictured paying his respects at the new memorial. BN1199.